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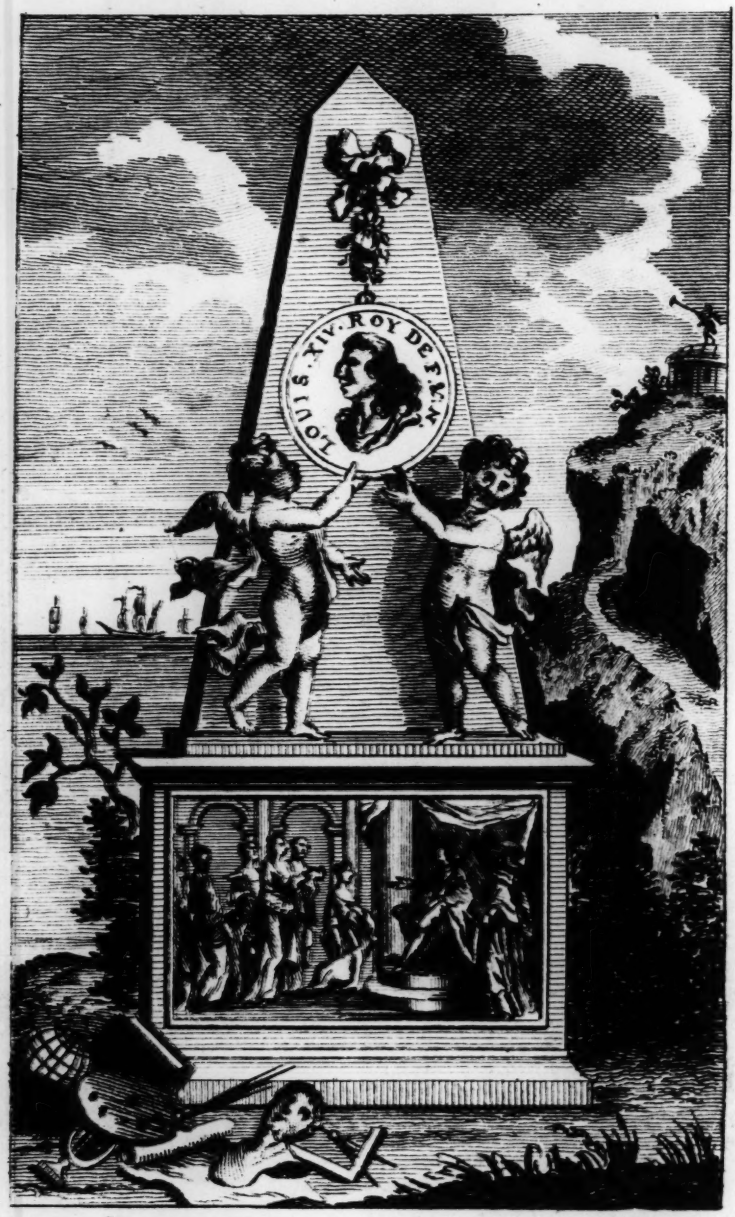
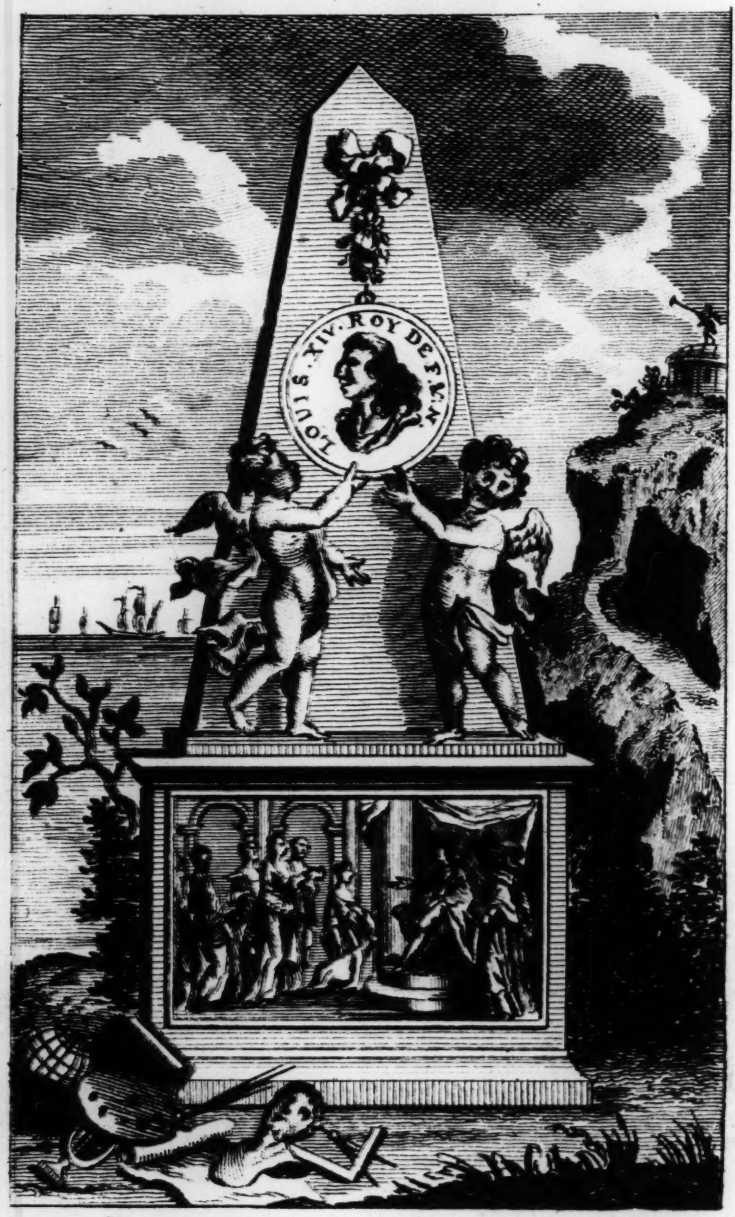



*Lewis XIV. the Encourager of Arts, Manufacture, & Commerce.*

Frontispiece




*Lewis XIV. the Encourager of Arts, Manufacture, & Commerce.*

# THE HISTORY OF FRANCE,

FROM

THE EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME.

COMPREHENDING

EVERY INTERESTING AND REMARKABLE OCCURRENCE

IN THE

ANNALS OF THAT MONARCHY.

EMBELLISHED WITH

COPPER-PLATE CUTS.

DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF

YOUNG LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

LONDON:

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BRITISH MUSEUM

# PREFACE.

THE Hiſtories of England and France are ſo cloſely connected, that, in order to underſtand the one properly, we muſt not be wholely unacquainted with the other. Indeed, France is not only a Neighbour of England, in point of ſituation, but in a great meaſure ſimilar in their faſhions, cuſtoms, and manners. In the following ſheets, we have endeavoured to give an impartial detail of the moſt intereſting and important events that have paſſed on the theatre of that monarchy; and we flatter ourſelves, that we ſhall be found leſs partial in our repreſentation of the affairs of France, than Voltaire has been in his relation of thoſe of England.

There are perhaps few hiſtories that will afford the youthful reader more frequent opportunities to contemplate on the viciſſitudes of human affairs, than this of France. We ſometimes ſee them torn by inteſtine broils, then uniting and performing prodigies of valour againſt a foreign enemy on the hoſtile plain; ſome-

ſometimes, and too often, the reins of government totally guided by looſe and ambitious women; then taken from them, and aſſumed by the greateſt politicians Europe ever produced. When the youthful Britiſh reader ſhall find, that no longer ſince than the year 1747, (if we may credit Voltaire himſelf) the French navy was reduced to a ſingle ſhip of war, he will, no doubt, be aſtoniſhed at the preſent powerful ſtate of the maritime force of that nation, and the daily improvements they are making therein; and he will naturally ſuggeſt to himſelf, that in any future ſtruggle with ſo dangerous a neighbour, we ſhall ſtand in need of every exertion of the genuine ardour and martial ſpirit of our forefathers, to which the enervating frippery and fantaſtical manners of the preſent times are fatal enemies.

We have further only to obſerve, that, having now ſupplied the young hiſtorian with the ſeparate Hiſtories of England, Greece, Rome, and France, we wiſh him to peruſe them with that care and attention, which cannot fail of enlightening his mind, exalting his ideas, and ſtrengthening his virtue and judgment.

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# INTRODUCTION.

*On the name, ſituation, extent, climate, productions, diviſion, inhabitants, manners, language, dependances, and government of France.*

THERE is not any hiſtory of a country which is better authenticated than that of France; and is it particularly intereſting to an Engliſh reader from the connection which has ſo long ſubſiſted between the two nations.

Gaul was the ancient name of that large and powerful kingdom which we now call France, a word derived from the Franks who conquered it. In the middle ages it was called in Latin Franco-Gallia, or Francio, and from thence came its French name, France.

This extenſive kindom lies betwixt the 42d and 52d degrees of northern latitude, between the 5th degree of weſtern, and 8th degree of eaſtern longitude. Its northern boundaries are the Channel, or the Britiſh ocean; eaſtward it confines on Germany, Swiſſerland, Savoy, and Piedmont; ſouthward on the Mediterranean and Spain; and its weſtern limits is the Atlantic ocean. Its greateſt length, from

Cape Conquet, in Brittany, to Straſburg, is 200 leagues; and its breadth, from Sonth to North, from Ruſillon to Dunkirk, 150 leagues. It whole content is reckoned at 10,000 geographical miles.

The climate of France makes it one of the beſt and pleaſanteſt countries in Europe, being ſubject neither to the ſevere cold of of the northern, nor the ſultry heats of the more ſouthern climates; and particularly in the middle parts, nothing can be more mild and temperate.

The Pyrenees ſeparate France from Spain, as the Alps from Italy. In Languedoc are the Cevennes and Alps; and the county of Auvergne is likewiſe full of high mountains. The county of Burgundy is ſeparated from Swiſſerland by the Jura Chain, as Lorrain, is from Alſace by the mountains of Vauge.

The principal rivers in France are the Loire, which riſes in Languedoc, out of the mountain Gerbier le Joux, between the Vivarais and Velai; and after watering the provinces of Nivernois, Orleannois Touraine, and Anjou, and receiving ſeveral other rivers in its courſe, diſcharges itſelf into the Atlantic ocean, fifteen leagues below Nantz in Brittany. The

Siene,

Seine, the ſource of this river, is above Chanceaux, two leagues from St. Seine. It runs through Paris, paſſes by Rouen, and joins the Channel between Havre de Grace and Honfleur.

The Rhone. This river riſes in Mount Furke, in Swiſſerland, through which it runs into the lake of Geneva, and after leaving it four leagues below that town, loſes itſelf in a narrow cliff of rock, from whence it paſſes by Seiſſel and Lyons, and diſcharges itſelf into the Mediterranean, by three mouths Gras de Sauye, Saint Anne, and le Grand Gras.

The Garonne, which iſſues from the mountain of Aure in the Pyrennees, into the Valley of Aran in Gaſcony. At Bec d'Ambez, it joins the Dordogne, whence it is called the Gironde; and runs into the Atlantic ocean by two mouths, Le Pas de Anes, and le Pas de Grave. All theſe rivers are navigable, and communicate either with themſelves or with other rivers, by canals.

France has in all ages been celebrated for its fertility, and very juſtly, as producing ſufficiently and even abundantly almoſt every thing requiſite to the neceſſity, convenience, and pleaſure of life; the animal kingdom affords horned cattle,

ſheep, game, wild and tame fowl. In horſes, and particularly the large and ſtrong kind, it is ſomewhat deficient; but this in ſeveral parts is made up by aſſes and mules. The ſouthern provinces afford ſilk worms which ſpin great quantities of ſilk, but not ſufficient to ſupply the manufactures. France is well ſupplied with fiſh both from the ſea and the rivers. The vegetable kingdom in France is very conſiderable; for beſides timber and wood for fuel, it produces the beſt kind of apples, pears, plumbs, peaches, apricots, cheſnuts, and olive trees. Several of the provinces alſo afford capers, ſaffron wood, and tobacco: but of all the fruits and vegetables in France, the moſt profitable is the vine, with which all the provinces abound, Picardy alone excepted. The French fruits and vegetables are exquiſite. In common years the corn of its own growth ſuffices; but it is ſubject to frequent ſcarcities from ſeveral cauſes. Of hemp and flax it has likewiſe a ſufficiency.

France affords minerals, but with little or none of the two principal metals, gold and ſilver; for though anciently very fine gold was found in Gaul, yet the mines have been long ſince exhauſted, and the few ſilver veins remaining are not of ſuch richneſs as to clear the coſts of working them.

Copper

Copper it has plenty, and ſtill more iron; but very little tin and lead. Though France yeilds no gems, it has excellent marble, and ſome part abounds in pit-coal. Salt is made both from ſprings and from the ſea; and ſalt-petre in moſt parts of the kingdom. France has many mineral waters and warm-baths; and ſome famous for their virtues in certain diſtempers.

The provinces of which France at preſent conſiſts, were at the acceſſion of the Capetian family to the Throne, ſo far from being immediately ſubject to the Crown, that moſt of them had their particular princes, who indeed held their lands as fiefs from the kings: but on the extinction of their families, their lands became ſucceſſively annexed to the Crown, and this in proceſs of time gave occaſion to the diviſion of the country into Governments (Gouvernemens Generaux.) Theſe in the time of Francis I. were nine, which afterwards in the civil wars under Francis II. and Charles IX. were increaſed. Henry III. by an edict, ſettled their number at twelve, Iſle de France, Burgundy, Normandy, Guienne, Brittany, Champagne, Languedoc, Picardy, Dauphine, Provence, Lyonnois, Orleannois. But under Lewis the XIVth. thisnumber was

by the newly conquered countries and curtailments from moſt of the other Governments, augmented two thirds; ſo that at preſent there are thirty-ſeven in this order. Paris, Iſle de France, Picardy, and Artois. Champagne, Burgundy, Dauphine, Provence, Languedoc, Foix, Rouſillon, Navarre, Guienne, Saintong, and Augoumois, Ounais, Poitu, Brittany, Normandy, Havre de Grace, Maine, Perche, and Laval. Orleannois, Nivernois, Bourbonnois, Lyonnois, Auvergne, Limouſin, La Marche, Berry, Touraine, Anjou, Suamur, Flanders, Metty, Lorrain, Verdun, Toul, Alſace, the county of Burgundy.

It is not a little remarkable, that in France, where every thing has been brought under the royal prerogative, there are ſtill two countries quite free and independant, and inveſted with the ſovereignty. Theſe are the counties of Avignon and Venaiſſin, and the principality of Dombes. The former, which belong to the See of Rome, are hemmed in by Provence. The third, of which the Duke du Maine is proprietor, lies in the Duchy of Burgundy. Orange was likewiſe a free principality, but on the failure of the male line of that illuſtrious family, in the perſon of William the Third, King of England, it was ſequeſtrated,

trated, and has been annexed to the government of Dauphine. There are farther the free principalities of Bouillon and Monaco. The former is in a great measure, environed by the Duchy of Luxemburg; but the latter lies in Italy, between the county of Nice and the Genoese territories, under the protection of France.

The inhabitants of France, considered originally, consist of a mixture of several people. The Gauls, the Aborigines, were successively invaded by the Romans, the Burgundians, the Goths and the Bretons, the Franks and the Normans; so that to this day no small difference of manners and customs is observable in several provinces. For instance, the Normans are reckoned crafty; the Gascons witty and courageous, but great boasters; the Limosins, dull; the Parisians soft but courteous and friendly.

As to a general description of the French they are comely and well shaped, very active and lively, with a great share of wit, and a natural disposition and aptitude for all bodily exercises. In affection and obedience to their Kings, they exceed all other nations. The meanest and poorest Frenchman passionately interests himself in the glory and good fortune of the grand Monarch; to please him and merit his favour,

vour, is the higheſt ambition of all ranks, and the ſummit of all their wiſhes. They are naturally ſociable, and their ſociality is directed by good ſenſe; excluding all reſtraints and affected gravity from converſation; but punctual obſervers of real decency. Another of their commendable qualities is complaiſance and a readineſs to oblige, which they they practiſe not only towards relations and acquaintance, but likewiſe to ſtrangers, whom they treat with great civility, contracting friendſhip with them as readily as with their own countrymen; and ſhewing themſelves not only diſintereſted but even generous and noble in their friendſhip. The French nobility value honour above every thing; and hence that valour by which they chiefly ſtrive to diſtinguiſh themſelves from the commonalty.

But theſe good qualities are not without great alloy. The complaiſance of the French is often overdone; and that ſprightlineſs and wit, otherwiſe ſo taking, ſeems to be not purely natural. In the mean time, amidſt this exceſſive fondneſs for wit, which is as it were an epidemical diſtemper among them, the underſtanding is neglected as of little or no account; the effect of which is that they frequently

miſtake

miſtake the ſhadow for the ſubſtance, and ſeek merit in external appearances, and things of no affinity with it. As they account no nation can come in competition with them for wit, ſo they arrogate to themſelves the like ſuperiority in qualities really praiſe worthy; and eſpecially intrepidity and military courage. Thus the ſucceſs of their arms elevates them beyond meaſure; and on every fortunate occurrence, Europe rings with their ſuperiority.

Courage, that capital virtue of the nobility, was formerly productive of great miſchiefs among them by duels; and families would have utterly extirpated each other, had not Lewis the XIVth. put a ſevere check to this ſanguinary practice. The affection and reſpect which the French bear to their ſoverign, how commendable ſoever in itſelf, yet is cenſured for its exceſs approaching to adoration. Perſons of the higheſt rank account his diſpleaſure, and being baniſhed from Court, as the very greateſt misfortune; and that freedom which they might enjoy at their ſeats, becomes an inſupportable load and torture. Amidſt all their ſubmiſſion to their monarchs and the court, in every thing even to matters of taſte, and amidſt all their humiliations to their ſuperiors, they are filled with

with ambition, and a thirſt of command; purchaſing offices and titles, and living higher than they are able; and all purely to make a greater figure than their equals.

But their natural levity is ſtill greater, and ſubjects them in their own deportment, and particularly in their cloathing, to the tyranny of faſhion, which is ever varying; and yet is ſubmitted to by almoſt every European nation as well as the French, except the Spaniards. All the dark parts of the French character meet in thoſe they call PETIT MAITRES, who in their whole demeanor, in their way of thinking, in their talk and in their dreſs, affect a ridiculous diſtinction from other people; and all ranks abound with theſe fantaſtical creatures. The fair ſex in France, whoſe morals are ſo much complained of, ape every thing criminal and abſurd which they ſee in thoſe and other men; and once two females of diſtinction went ſo far as to fight a duel.

Under the dominion of the Romans, in Gaul, their language became ſo general as totally to explode the Celtic, which was ſpoken by the inhabitants. The Franks introduced the German, which appears to have continued ſome time among them, to have been the court language under the Mero-

vingians and Carlovingians. The mixture of the languages of the Franks and other nations, who came and ſettled in Gaul, with the Romans, produced a dialect quite new with a corrupt Latin for its ground. This at firſt was very rugged and irregular, but by degrees became poliſhed and improved eſpecially ſince the time of Francis I. who, in the year 1539, prohibited the uſe of Latin in the Law Courts, which till then had been a conſtant practice. At laſt the academy inſtituted by Cardinal Richlieu, under Lewis the XIIIth and Lewis the XIVth, brought the language to that regularity, energy, and elegance by which it gained ſuch vogue, that at preſent it my be looked on as the general language of Europe.

France in compariſon of other European countries, is very populous. Its inhabitants in the year 1621, are ſaid to have amounted to to twenty-five millions and in 1733, to twenty-rwo, whereas in other years, they did not exceed nineteen millions. At prefent, ſome compute them at twenty, others at eighteen, and others again at only ſeventeen millions. This population is attributed to the national induſtry, and to the many manufactures and fabrics by which great multitudes ſubſiſt.

ſubſiſt. The obſtruction to a ſtill greater encreaſe, or rather which occaſions a gradual decreaſe, are the great number of eccleſiaſtics and convents, religious oppreſſions, and conſequent emigrations; frequent wars, heavy taxes, with the increaſe of navigation and colonies in other parts of the world.

In Aſia, the French poſſeſs Pondicherry, on the coaſt of Coromandel, a place of great trade and well fortified, with ſeveral ſettlements on the coaſt of Malabar and Bengal.

In Africa they have the iſland of Goree, which was taken by the Engliſh laſt war, (1758) and reſtored to them again at the treaty of peace, 1763, as was Pondicherry above mentioned. In the Indian ocean, they have the iſlands of Bourbon and Mauritius, near Madagaſcar, where they alſo eſtabliſhed a ſettlement in the year 1774.

Before the laſt war, they poſſeſſed all Canada in North America, but ceded it to the Engliſh (who had beat them out of it) at the peace of Paris. They have likewiſe the weſtern part of the iſland of Hiſpaniola, Martinico, Guadaloupe, Marie Gallante, Deſirada and St. Lucia, which yield great quantities of ſugar and coffee.

The

The prerogative of the Kings of France inſtead of being unlimited, as at preſent, was anciently under reſtraints from the ſtates of the kingdom. Theſe under the Merovingian Kings, aſſembled annually in the month of March, and their aſſemblies were called *Campus Martii:* afterwards, when for the greater conveniency, they were altered to the month of May, the appellation was alſo changed to *Campus Maii.* In theſe aſſemblies, where the King, with his great officers and the nobility, aſſiſted, peace and war, and all affairs of government were diſcuſſed, and reſolutions taken by a majority of votes. In the diet held at Soiſſons, in the month of May, 750, where Childeric was depoſed, and Pepin elected King, it is obſerved that the clergy was preſent for the firſt time. And thus the ſtates of the kingdom under the Carlovingian princes, conſiſted of the nobility and the clergy, and their ſeſſion was called the Parliament. This conſtitution continued under the government of the Capetians, till King Philip IV. who to ſecure the approbation of the whole people in the warm conteſts between him and Pope Boniface VIII. alſo ſummoned the cities to the diet, which now was called *aſſemblée des Etats Generaux.* The name

of Parliament was given to the Court of Juſtice which King Philip IV. inſtituted at Paris, appointing its perpetual reſidence in that city. But the national ſtates at this time were far from having their ancient weight and conſideration; nothing of peace and war came under their cognizance; their chief buſineſs was to repreſent the grievances of the people, conſent to taxes, and to direct the manner of levying them; and ſettle the regency, when omitted by the deceaſed King. Theſe remaining privileges, however, they ſometimes aſſerted with great firmneſs, entering into aſſociations againſt the Kings, and obliging them to correct the abuſes in Government. But Lewis the XIth. at length, by force and artifice, brought the aſſemby of the ſtates to a total dependancy on his will; ſo that they became a mere farce. If ever they were ſummoned under the following reigns, it was only for mere form; and in the year 1614 was held the laſt general diet in France. That King, and Lewis XIV. ſtill more, would not allow the nation to have any rights and privileges, but governed with an arbitrary authority, which has ſince remained undiſputed and without any abatement.

Though

Though the French civilians hold France to be an unlimited monarchy, yet has it ſome fundamental laws, which the king of his own prerogative cannot alter. 1ſt, That he ſhall profeſs and defend the Roman Catholic religion. 2dly, That he ſhall not divide or diſmember the kingdom, nor alienate any of the demeſne or property of the crown. And 3dly, That he ſhall not alter the eſtabliſhed ſucceſſion to the Throne.

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# A NEW HISTORY OF FRANCE.

## CHAP I.

*Of the Tranſactions in France, from the earlieſt Accounts, to the End of the Merovingian Princes, or theſe of the firſt Race.*

ABOUT 47 years before the birth of Chriſt, Gaul, or that country which is now called France, was conquered, after a brave reſiſtance, by Julius Cæſar, and annexed to the Roman empire. It continued in the poſſeſſion of that diſtinguiſhed nation, till the deſtruction of

Rome in the 5th century, when it became a prey to the Goths, the Burgundians, and the Franks, who ſubdued, but did not extirpate, the ancient natives.

The Franks themſelves, who gave it the name of France, or Frankenland, were a collection of ſeveral people inhabiting Germany, and particularly the Salii, who lived on the banks of the river Sale, and who cultivated the principles of Juriſprudence better than their neighbours. Theſe Salii had a rule which the reſt of the Franks are ſaid to have adopted, and has been, by the modern Franks, applied to the ſucceſſion of the throne, excluding all females from the inheritance of ſovereignty, and is well known by the name of the Salic law.

The Franks and Burgundians after eſtabliſhing their power, and reducing the original natives to a ſtate of ſlavery, parcelled out the lands among their principal leaders; and ſucceeding kings found it neceſſary to confirm their privileges, allowing them to exerciſe ſovereign authority in their reſpective governments, until they at length aſſumed an independency, and only acknowledged the king at their head. This gave riſe to thoſe numerous principalities that were formerly in France, and the ſeveral parliaments; for every province

vince became in its policy and government, an epitome of the whole kingdom; and no laws were made, or taxes raiſed, without the concurrence of the grand council, conſiſting of the clergy, and of the nobility.

The firſt king of the Franks was Pharamond, who governed all thoſe provinces now called Weſtphalia and Franconia, and all the country between the Rhine and the Elbe. He flouriſhed about the year of Chriſt 418, and diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a great warrior, amid the reſolutions of the empire in the weſt. Clodian, Merovœus, and his ſon, Childeric, ſucceeded; but hiſtorians are ſo little acquainted with the tranſactions of their reigns, that they often begin the hiſtory of France with Clovis, who may be conſidered as the real founder of the Monarchy.

## CLOVIS

Aſcended the throne in the year 481; he was the ſon of Childeric, King of the Franks, and eſtabliſhed the dominion of that nation in Gaul, where they had been ſettled ever ſince the year 287. This ſettlement was confirmed to them in 358, by the Emperor Julian, and was abſolutely fixed under Clodion towards the year 438,

after the expedition by which this Prince obtained poſſeſſion of Cambray, and of the neighbouring country as far as the Somme.

In the year 496, the battle of Tolbiac, in the neighbourhood of Cologne, was gained over the Alemans. Clovis, who had married Clotilda, a Chriſtian Princeſs, was converted to chriſtianity, and baptized, in conſequence of a vow he had made, if he ſhould prove victorious at the battle. He was the only Catholic king at that time, either in the eaſtern or weſtern Empire. Nine years after, the battle of Vouglé, in the neighbourhood of Poitiers, was gained over Alaric, who was killed by Clovis. This Prince ſubdued the whole country from the Loire, as far as the Pyrenees. Clovis died at the age of forty-five years, of which he had reigned thirty: he was buried in the church of St. Genevieve, then known by the name of St. Peter and St. Paul.

He left four ſons behind him, Thierry, Clodomir, Childebert, and Clotharius, who parted the monarchy between them. Thierry had the kingdom of Metz, Clodomir that of Orleans, Childebert that of Paris, and Clotharius that of Soiſſons.

After ſeveral years, Clotharius ſucceeded his three brothers; and his ſon Chramne, whom

whom he had by a concubine, rebelling againſt him in the year 560, he defeated him in a pitched battle, and burnt him and his whole family, in a cottage to which he had fled for ſhelter.

Two years afterwards, Clotharius died at Campaigne, in the one and fiftieth year of his reign. He was ſucceeded by his fair ſons.

## CHEREBERT, GONTRAN, SIGEBERT, and CHILPERIC.

To Cherebert was allotted the kingdom of Paris: to Gontran was given that of Orleans; to Sigebert, Auſtracia, now called Lorraine; and to Chilperic, Soiſſons. This latter was guilty of many enormities. He ſtrangled his wife in her bed, oppreſſed his ſubjects in a moſt tyrannical manner; and after having been many years deteſted by his ſubjects, he was murdered at a hunting match. After a variety of unintereſting revolutions, the monarchy, in the year 613, was united in Clotharius, ſon of the above-mentioned Chilperic.

## CLOTHARIUS II.

THIS Prince was a lover of peace and juſtice, and appears firſt to have held a re-

gular parliament; he died after a reign of fourteen years, regretted by all his people, leaving the kingdom to his two sons, Dagobert and Cherbert.

## DAGOBERT I.

THIS Prince, from the death of his brother Charibert, soon became sole King of France. He foundded the church of St. Denis, where most of the monarchs of France have since been buried. The mayors of the palace in this reign invaded the royal authority, and dictated to this Prince and his successors, till Pepin was placed upon the throne. After the death of Dagobert in 644, his two sons shared the kingdom. Sigebert, the eldest, died soon, and Clovis the Second was succeeded in the year 656, by Clotharius III, who left the crown in 670, to Childeric II, son of Clovis and Dagobert II, son of the above-named Sigebert. These Princes were murdered, one in 673, and the other in 687, and let their title to Thierry III, brother to Dagobert.

These obscure Princes are only mentioned to shew the connection they had with monarchs more worthy of notice, and to prevent

prevent the reader from being at a loſs with reſpect to their genealogy.

Duke Pepin, the father of the famous Charles Martel, mayor of the palace, intirely influenced the actions of Thierry, who, at length, wiſhing to recover his authority, put himſelf at the head of a body of his ſubjects, but was defeated by Pepin in the year 690, who, ſoon after, ſubdued all the provinces that had revolted during the weakneſs of the preceding reigns, and uſurped the whole regal authority. Thierry died in the year 692, leaving two ſons, Clovis the IIId, who ſucceeded him, and Childibert III, who acceded to the crown after his brother.

Theſe two Princes, during their life, had nothing but an empty title, Duke Pepin directing all the affairs of ſtate.

## DAGOBERT III,

Son of Childibert the Third, came to the throne in 714, but had no more authority than his father. Pepin died ſoon after, and his baſtard ſon, Charles Martel, was acknowledged by the inhabitants, Duke of Auſtraſia. Dagobert died, and left a ſon called Thierry, who did not immediately ſucceed him, as Daniel, a ſon of Chilpe-

ric

ric I, was taken out of a monaſtry, where he had been ſhut up, and placed on the throne by the name of Chilperic II. In 719, Charles Martel united the whole authority of the French empire, but politically choſe to be only mayor of the palace to Chilperic, who died in 720, leaving his crown to Thierry IVth, ſon of Dagobart III. In this reign, Charles Martel obtained a glorious victory over the Saracens, near Poitiers and Thierry, dying in 737, he aſſumed the title of Duke of the French, and became the arbiter of all Europe. This great man, after enjoying the fruits of his valour in peace, died and left the kingdom between his ſons Carloman and Pepin; but the latter thinking it politic to put an end to the interregnum, filled up the throne with Childeric III, ſon of Childeric II. Pepin defeated the Bavarians and the Saxons; and after ſuffering Childeric to bear the name of a King about ten years, he formally dethroned him, and ſhut him up in a monaſtry, where he died a few years after; and thus ended the race of the Merovingian Kings, after they had filled the throne for the ſpace of 270 years, computing from Clovis.

*Remark.*

*Remarkable Events during the Reigns of the* MEROVINGIAN *Princes, or thoſe of the Firſt Race.*

IN the year 501, duels were eſtabliſhed by law.

543, St. Benedict founded the monaſtic order in the weſt.

622, The flight of Mahomet from Mecca, which the Turks call the *Hegira.*

635, The famous church of St. Dennis founded.

732, Charles Martel defeated the King of the Saracens, who were ſaid to have loſt 300,000 men.

743, The Chriſtians firſt began to reckon the years from the incarnation of our bleſſed Saviour.

## CHAP. II.

### *The* SECOND RACE; *or, The Kings of* CARLOVINGIAN *Line.*

### PEPIN.

THIS Prince acceded to the throne in the year 751, about the age of thirty-ſeven.

It is ſufficienr to obſerve, in an hiſtorical way, that the acceſſion of Pepin was the firſt inſtance, in which the crown was transferred to a ſtrange family. During the whole time of the firſt race, it was worn only by the deſcendants of Clovis, indeed without any right of ſeniority, or diſtinction between legitimate and natural children; and with the circumſtance of partition: it was poſſeſſed in the ſame manner under the ſecond race by the ſons of Pepin; but as this Prince dethroned the lawful heir, his deſcendants underwent the ſame fate. At length, under the third race, the hereditary right was ſo well eſtabliſhed, that the kings had it no longer in their power to change the order of ſucceſ-

ſion;

ſion; ſo that the crown devolved to their eldeſt ſon by an eſtabliſhed cuſtom. Pepin was proclaimed King of France at Soiſſons, and was the firſt king that was crowned and anointed according to the rites of the church.

In 753, he defeated the Saxons, who, notwithſtanding the treaties concluded with that Prince, refuſed to acknowledge his authority. Five years afterwards he made war againſt the Saxons, the Sclavonians, the Bavarians, and the duke of Aquitaine, who had given ſhelter to his brother Griffon. He drove the Saracens out of the country formerly held by the Goths, and was victorious on every ſide.

The general aſſemblies, which, under the kings of the firſt race, were held in March, began in this Prince's reign, to be kept in May; becauſe the uſe of cavalry being introduced into the armies, the finding of forage made it neceſſary to defer the aſſembly till the laſt-mentioned month.

Pepin, by his wife Birtha, had ſeveral children, particularly Charlemain and Carloman, who ſucceeded him at his death in the year 768, which was occaſioned by a dropſy in the 54th year of his age, and 17th of his reign. This monarch had all the great qualities of a hero.

His tomb is remarkable for its epitaph, *Pepin, father* of *Charlemain*, as if he had derived more glory from his ſon, than from his own exploits.

## CHARLEMAIN the GREAT.

This Prince, and his brother Carloman, ſucceeded their father. Their ambition created an uneaſineſs between them, on account of the apportionment of their dominions: Deſiderius, king of the Lombards, and the Duke of Bavaria, encouraged this miſunderſtanding; but it was ſoon determined by the death of Carloman, who was interred at Rheimes in 771, on which Charlemain became ſole maſter of the French monarchy.

This great king entered into a war againſt the Saxons, which laſted thirty years: he defeated them in the neighbourhood of Paderborn, and plundered their famous temple, where the idol Irminſul was worſhiped. It is thought that this was a ſtatue which they had erected to Arminius, the avenger of their liberty.

In 774, was the extinction of the kingdom of the Lombards, (which had laſted 206 years) in the perſon of Deſiderius,

who, wanting to make himſelf maſter of Italy, and to prevent Charlemain from oppoſing his deſign, cut out work for that Prince at home, by aſſerting the rights of the two ſons of Carloman, his ſon-in-law, to whom he granted ſhelter. Charlemain paſſed Mount Cennes, beat Deſiderius, and took him priſoner, and was crown'd king of the Lombards.

Pope Adrian I. granted to Charlemain, the year after, in a council, held at Rome, the right of ordering and confirming the election of Popes. New commotions aroſe in Saxony, where the inhabitants maſſacred a body of French troops. Charlemain haſtened thither from Italy, and obliged them to ſue for pardon. The famous aſſembly of Paderborn was held in 776, where Charlemain concluded a treaty with the Saxons and Saracens, which gave him an opportunity of marching an army into Spain.

He undertook an expedition into Spain in 778, in order to ſettle Ibinalarabi in Saragoſſa: by the way he received the homage of the ſeveral Princes, whoſe territories were ſituated between the Pyrenean mountains, and the river Ebro. Lupus, duke of Gaſcony, beat the rear of Charlemain's army in the valley of Roncevaux,

where fell the famous Rowland, whoſe name has been immortalized by our earlieſt romances. Charlemain reſtored the ancient kingdom of Aquitaine in favour of his ſon Lewis, marched back into Germany, and defeated the Saxons in the country of Heſſe.

He undertook a ſecond expedition to Rome in 782, and made a kind of triumphant march through Italy. His two eldeſt ſons, Pepin and Lewis, accompanied him on this occaſion, having made the Pope crown one of them king of Lombardy, and the other king of Aquitaine; he left Pepin in Italy.

Witekind, the Saxon general, excited the people to revolt, and Charlemain's generals were vanquiſhed at the battle of Sintal. Charlemain took a ſevere revenge of them, and at length obliged Witekind to ſubmit to baptiſm. The Saxon hero, whoſe frankneſs was equal to his valour, gave ſignal proofs of the ſincerity of his converſion: for from that time he ſhewed himſelf a moſt zealous protector of the Chriſtian religion.

In 788, the duchy of Bavaria was united to the crown of France, in conſequence of the infidelity of Taſſillon, duke of that province, who at length obliged his couſin

Charlemain

Charlemain to put him and his ſon Theudon under an arreſt, and to caſt them both into a convent.

Charlemain introduced the Gregorian ſong into France, and by eſtabliſhing a ſchool within his palace, which became a model to ſeveral others, he merited the title of Reſtorer of Learning. Each member of this ſchool or academy went by a particular name; and Charlemain himſelf, who looked upon it as an honour to be a member, took that of David. He ſent to England for the famous Alcuinus. —Peter of Piſa, who had been grammar-maſter to the King, aſſiſted at all his conferences, together with the archbiſhop of Treves and Mentz, the abbot of Corby, &c. The royal taſte, as it generally happens, rendered learning faſhionable; nay, the very ladies followed the example, and one in particular diſtinguiſhed herſelf in the ſcience of aſtronomy. Charlemain formed a grand project to open a communication between the ocean and the Euxine ſea, by digging a canal which ſhould join the Rhine to the Danube.

In the year 800, Charlemain was crowned Emperor of the Weſt, by Leo III. Thus that empire, which expired in the year 476, in Auguſtulus, the laſt emperor

peror of the weſt, and which was afterwards filled by the Heruli, by the Aſtrogoths, and the Lombards, revived again in Charlemain, and continues to this day. The king of Perſia, about this time, reſigned the holy land to this Prince by his ambaſſadors.

Lewis, afterwards, called the Debonnaire, who had been proclaimed king of Aquitaine in his cradle, and who kept his court at Toulouſe, the capital of his dominions, from whence he waged war againſt the Saracens, made himſelf maſter of Barcelona, which continued in the hands of the French till the reign of St. Lewis.

An aſſembly was held in 806, in which Charlemain divided his dominions among his three ſons, and made a will for that purpoſe, which was confirmed by the French lords, and by Pope Leo: but what was very remarkable, he left thoſe people at liberty to chuſe themſelves a maſter, after the deceaſe of the princes, his ſons, provided he was of the blood royal.

Two years afterwards, the barbarous nations of the North, the Normans, Angles, Danes, &c. began to make themſelves known by the piratical deſcents upon the coaſt of France. Charlemain,

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with great concern, foreſaw the ravages they were likely to commit, and therefore endeavoured to prevent them: with this view he viſited his harbours, and built a number of ſhips of war, to be always manned and ready to put to ſea; and what appears incredible, he had them ſtationed from the mouth of the Tiber, to the extremity of Germany, that is, as far as Denmark.

*This great Prince* (ſays Eginhard) *wore only a plain doublet in winter, made of an otter's ſkin, a woollen tunic fringed with ſilk, and a blue coat or caſſock; his hoſe conſiſted of tranſverſe bands or fillets of different colours.* He would march with the greateſt rapidity from the Pyrenean mountains into Germany, and from Germany into Italy. The whole world echoed his name. He was the talleſt and ſtrongeſt man of his time. In this reſpect he reſembled the heroes of fabulous ſtory: he differed from them, as he thought that force is of uſe only to conquer; but laws are neceſſary to govern. Accordingly he enacted ſeveral after the form obſerved in thoſe days, that is, in mixed aſſemblies, compoſed of a number of biſhops and the principal lords of the nation.

LEWIS

## LEWIS I. *ſurnamed Debonnaire,*

*Emperor*, and *King of France*, aſcended the throne in the year 814, on the death of Charlemain, at the age of thirty-ſix, was proclaimed Emperor at Aix-la-Chapelle, and crowned in 816 at Rheimes by Pope Stephen. He married the Princeſs Ermangerole, and conciliated the affections of the Saxons, by reſtoring them to the rights of ſucceſſion, of which they had been deprived by Charlemain. He ſent his eldeſt ſon, Lotharius, into Bavaria, and Pepin into Aquitaine, in order to govern thoſe provinces, but kept Lewis, his youngeſt at home.

Lewis having vanquiſhed the Gaſcons, Bretons and Hungarians, and loſt his conſort, married a ſecond wife in 819, Judith, a Bavarian Princeſs, whoſe gallantry and ambition proved the ſource of all his misfortunes. Lotharius was crowned Emperor by Pope Paſchal, in the year 823.

Seven years afterwards, Charles the bald, the Emperor's ſon, by his wife Judith, having had no ſhare in the former partition, obtained Almania, together with Rhatia, and part of Burgundy, which were diſmembered from the dominions

nions of his three brothers. Theſe princes were offended at this diviſion; and alledged as a reaſon the bad conduct of their ſtep-mother, who they ſaid was guilty of an intrigue with Bernard, Count of Barcelona: they pretended to avenge the honour of their father, who, inſenſible of the ſhame of his family had confered the principal employments in the kingdom together with his whole confidence, to a man who brought diſgrace upon his name. But inſtead of avenging his cauſe, they ſtripped him of his dominions. Pepin advancing as far as Verberie, obliged his father and his wife Judith to retire to a monaſtry, and with great difficulty complied with their requeſt for allowing them ſome time before they put on the religious habit; a delay which contributed to their reſtoration. The jealouſy of the three brothers and the haughtineſs of Lotharius, ſaved Lewis the Debonnaire, who with the aſſiſtance of Garabaud the monk, was reſtored to his crown in a diet held at Nimequen, where Lotharius was excluded from his partnerſhip in the imperial dignity. The emperor took his wife out of the Convent, in which ſhe had been forced to aſſume a religious habit; and both for his own honour as well as for Judith's, he

made her ſwear ſhe was innocent of all the crimes laid to their charge, beſides ſubmitting herſelf to the *Ordeal* or trial by fire.

In the year 833 the emperor's three ſons conſpired againſt him a ſecond time, and joined their troops in a plain between Baſil and Stralsburg, ſince called the *field of Lies*. Pope Gregory the fourth, having according to ſeveral authors, eſpouſed their cauſe, and conſented to follow their camp, they ſeized the emperor's perſon, who finding himſelf deſerted by the whole army, was obliged to abdicate the throne. They conducted him to St. Medards at Soiſſons, where he was clad in a penetential habit; Judith they baniſhed to Sartona and confined young Charles to the abbey of Prum. But new diviſions among the three brothers [in 834] preſerved the emperor once more; ſo that he was reſtored to his crown in the Church of St. Denis, and had alſo the pleaſure of meeting with his wife. Lotharius, refuſing to approve of this ſettlement, retired into Burgundy, where he aſſembled a few troops, but at length was obliged to ſubmit to his father, who forgave him.

In 835 the emperor, finding himſelf infirm and declining, made a new partition among his children, ſtill without nomina-

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ting a ſucceſſor to the empire. To Lotharius he gave Italy; to Lewis Germany and Saxony; to Pepin, Aquitaine; and to Charles, France and Burgundy. This diviſion gave freſh offence to the three eldeſt brothers, with whom he was obliged to renew the war. Three years afterwards Pepin died, and the Emperor to puniſh that prince's two ſons, for the faults of their father, or rather to pleaſe Judith gave Pepin's ſpoils to his ſon Charles, in prejudice to his grand children.

The nobility of Aquitaine could not bear ſo flagrant an act of injuſtice. The emperor marched an army into their country, and obliged them to ſubmit; while his ſon Lewis of Bavaria, taking advantage of this diverſion, ſeized all the towns that ſuited his conveniency. Lewis however was obliged to turn back, in order to ſtop the courſe of his father's conqueſts. This expedition of Lewis the Debonnaire againſt his own ſon the King of Bavaria, proved fatal to the unfortunate father. He had conceived a diſlike to this laſt journey, and was greatly ſhocked at the unnatural behaviour of his children, with whom he was obliged to be perpetually at war.

A total eclipſe of the ſun happened upon his march, which terrified him to the higheſt degree, his imagination being already weakened by his misfortunes, and by ſuperſtition, ſo that he died at length with vexation and faſting, after an illneſs of forty days.

## CHARLES *the* BALD,

His ſon, aſcended the throne at the age of 17, in the year 840. He entered into an alliance with Lewis of Bavaria againſt the Emperor Lotharius, whom they ſoon after conquered at the battle of Fontenoy. They afterwards, in 844, concluded a peace, when Charles kept Aquitaine and Neuſtria; Lewis had all Germany, and Lotharius Italy. Charles defeated the Normans, who made horrid ravages in his kingdom.

Robert the valiant, in this reign obtained the goverment of what was then called the Duchy of France; he was great grandfather to Hugh Capet. Charles in the year 875 obtained the imperial crown by the death of the Emperor Lewis 2d. After being defeated by Lewis, ſecond ſon of Lewis the Germanic, Charles died at Brios a village

village on this ſide of Mount Cenis, being poiſoned by a Jew phyſician, in whom he repoſed an entire confidence. He was buried in the priory of Nantua; but his bones were ſoon afterwards removed to St. Denis. He had been king of France 38 years and Emperor 2 years. He was ſucceeded by his eldeſt ſon,

## LEWIS II. *ſurnamed the Stammerer,*

Who was crowned in the year 877. After an unintereſting reign of 2 years, he departed this life, and the remainder of this race affording nothing but a ſcene of trouble and confuſion, deſtitute of any great events, we ſhall content ourſelves with treating them as briefly as poſſible.

## LEWIS III. *and* CARLOMAN,

Sons of the laſt mentioned king, ſucceeded him in the year 879, and ſhared the empire between them. Lewis died ſoon afrer without iſſue, and left his brother Carloman ſole king of France, who in 884 was killed by a wild boar. He was ſucceeded by

## CHARLES *the* FAT,

Son of Lewis the Germanic, who aſcended the throne in prejudice to Charles the Simple, and enjoyed almoſt as great an extent of dominions as Charlemain; but being too weak to bear ſuch good fortune, he ſunk under its weight.

In 888, Charles died without iſſue, the ſcorn and contempt of his people, and was ſucceeded by

## EUDES, *Count of* PARIS,

Son of Robert le Fort, who was proclaimed in prejudice of Charles the Simple. He made war with ſucceſs againſt the Normans, and died after a reign of 10 years.

## CHARLES, *ſurnamed the Simple,*

Began his reign in 898. After ſeveral inteſtine wars among the nobility of France, Charles obtained the above degrading ſurname for not making a proper uſe of the advantages he had gained over the Duke of Lorrain. Charles killed in battle the Brother of Eudes the late King; who had ſet up a powerful party againſt him; yet he

he did not gain the victory, but was beaten and obliged to fly for ſhelter to Herbert Count of Vermandois, who confined him to the caſtle of Peronne, where he died in the year 929.

The wife of Charles the Simple was called Edgina and was daughter of Edward king of England; ſhe made her eſcape into that country, where ſhe was cordially recieved by her Brother Athelſtan; ſhe took her ſon Lewis with her, who for that reaſon was ſurnamed the Tranſmarine. This Princeſs, after having giving ſignal marks of her fortitude during the whole courſe of her life, concluded at laſt, after her huſband's deceaſe, another marriage with Herbert Count of Vermandois, who had kept Charles the Simple in confinement during the laſt ſeven years of his life.

## RODOLPH

Was crowned before the death of Charles but many of his ſubjects never acknowledged his authority. After divers wars with the Bretons, he died in 936 without iſſue.

Hugh the Great, his Brother-in-law, refuſed to accept of the Crown; but in

order to pave the way for his future grandeur, which he had been long meditating, ſent for Lewis Tranſmarine, who had been before conveyed by his mother into England.

## LEWIS IV. *ſurnamed Tranſmarine,*

Aſcended the Throne at the age of 16, in the year 937, and was diſturbed during the greateſt part of his reign by inteſtine commotions.

In 944 he ſeized on the dukedom of Normandy, in prejudice to young Richard the lawful heir; but having forfeited his word to Hugh the Great, Count of Paris, to whom he had promiſed a ſhare of Normandy, to prevent his diſturbing him in that expedition, loſt that province, by the Count's valour and conduct. Hugh having taken the king priſoner, obliged him to reſtore Normandy to Richard, and refuſed to ſet him at liberty till he had extorted from him the entire ceſſion of the county of Laon.

In the year 954 Lewis Tranſmarine died at Rheims of a fall from his horſe: he was interred in that city, and left among other iſſue, Lothaire, and Charles duke of Lorrain.

rain. He had taken the precaution to aſſociate his ſon to the crown three years before his death.

## LOTHAIRE,

The eldeſt ſon of Lewis, ſucceeded to the Throne in 954. He continued under the protection of Hugh the Great, who died two years afterwards, leaving ſeveral children behind him; the eldeſt, Hugh Capet ſome years after aſcended the throne. This long reign did not afford any conſiderable event, and the King died of poiſon ſaid to have been given him by his Wife Emma, in the year 985.

## LEWIS V. *ſurnamed the Slothful,*

Son of Lothaire and Emma, was crowned at the age of 20, and married Blanche of Aquitaine, by whom he had no iſſue. He reigned but one year, and died of poiſon at Compiegne, in the ſame manner as his father. It is believed that he was poiſoned by the Queen his Wife, who did not love him, and who had parted from him at one time to return back to Aquitaine.

His

His uncle Charles ſhould by right have ſucceeded him but Hugh Capet, ſeized the Crown.

*Thus ended the Carlovingian race, which laſted 236 years.*

*Remarkable Events during the reign of the* CALROVINGIAN *Race.*

766, Peter's pence collected in England by Offa, king of Mercia.

810, The Latin ceaſed to be the Vulgar Tongue in France.

827, Egbart united all the Kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy into one great State.

832, The Danes landed in England at the Iſle of Shepey.

851, The Danes wintered in England and burnt Canterbury, London, and laid waſte the County of Surry.

880, Alfred, founder of the Engliſh Monarchy, defeated the Danes.

901, Alfred the great died after a glorious reign of 29 years.

N. B. A ſheep in theſe times ſold for fifteen pence of our money.—Silk and Cotton were quite unknown—Linen but little uſed.—A horſe was valued at thirty ſix Shillings

Shillings of our money.—A Mare a third leſs.—An Ox ſold for 15s. Four fat Fowls for Sixpence and land for twenty pence an acre of the preſent money.

955, Biſhop Dunſtan, commonly called St. Dunſtan, raiſes Cabals in England.

986, About this time the Normans began their intercourſe with the Engliſh Nation.

## HUGH CAPET,

From whom the preſent reigning family is deſcended, was raiſed by the nobility to the Throne: theſe were confirmed by him in the poſſeſſion of the provinces which they had in the late confuſed times required. He annexed to the Crown, to which ſcarce any thing before belonged, the County of Paris, the Dutchy of France, which included all the Country between the Seine and Loire, and the County of Orleans. Amongſt the nobility who ſhared the reſt of the kingdom, the chief were the Dukes of Normandy, Burgundy, and Aquitaine; the Counts of Flanders, Champaign, Thouloufe, Vienne, Province, Dauphiny and Savoy: But the ſucceſſors of Hugh Capet had

had the pleaſure to ſee by degrees the territories of all theſe petty Sovereigns united to the Crown. He died in the year 996 aged 55 years.

## ROBERT I,

Son to Hugh Capet, ſucceeded to the Crown in the year 996, at the age of 25. He was born, baptized, and crowned at Orleans. He became at the death of his uncle maſter of the Dutchy of Burgundy. He afterwards married Bertha of the houſe of Burgundy; but as ſhe was within the degrees of conſanguinity prohibited by the Canon law, he firſt obtained the conſent of the Biſhops. For this they threatened to excommunicate him, unleſs he would agree to a ſeparation. The king refuſed to obey. All the biſhops concerned in the marriage repaired to Rome; and made the ſubmiſſion to the Pope; the people and even the courtiers deſerted the King; his domeſtics who were obliged to attend him, made every thing he had touched paſs through the fire in order to purify it. Robert at length complying, Bertha was diſmiſſed, and in a ſhort time after he married Conſtantia, daughter of William Count of Provence and Arles. In the year 1026,

Robert

Robert having loſt his eldeſt ſon Hugh, whom he cauſed to be crowned at Compeigne in 1017, procured his ſecond ſon Henry I. to recieve the Regal unction at Rheims in ſpite of Queen Conſtantia, who wanted to prefer her youngeſt ſon Robert. The king departed this life at Melun the 20th, of July, 1031, aged 60 years.

## HENRY I,

Second ſon to Robert, ſucceeded to the Crown July 20th, 1031, aged 27 years. Conſtantia, Henry's mother, ſtill deſirous of preferring her younger ſon Robert to Henry, excited a rebellion, in which ſhe was ſupported by Eudes, count of Champagne, and Baldwin, Count of Flanders. Robert, ſurnamed the Devil, Duke of Normany, aſſiſted Henry in ſubduing the rebels. Henry pardoned his brother Robert, and gave him the Dutchy of Burgundy of the blood royal. Queen Conſtantia died in the year 1032. Henry I. departed this life towards the cloſe of the year 1060

## PHILIP I.

Son to Henry, aſcended the throne in the year 1060; at eight years of age he had

had been crowned at Rheims in his father's life time. He, as his grandfather had before been, was excommunicated, on the account of his marriage, but he at laſt obtained a diſpenſation from the Pope. In this reign William Duke of Normandy conquered England; which laid the foundation of unſpeakable miſchiefs to France, the two kingdoms being for many years after perpetually at war.

About the ſame time, cruſades, for which the madneſs laſted above 200 years, were firſt thought of; theſe expeditions were very profitable to Popes, who not only took upon themſelves to appoint and protect the commanders in them, but had alſo an opportunity of ſelling many indulgences. Another great advantage to Popes was, that all donations towards the carrying of them on, were collected and diſtributed by their Nuncios. The King died in the year 1108.

## LEWIS VI. *ſurnamed Craſſus,*

Succeeded his father in the year 1108, aged 30 years. The ceremony of his coronation was performed at Orleans. This Prince, beſides being at war with Henry I. of England, was greatly diſturbed by ſome Barons

Barons at home. Theſe appeared in open arms againſt him, and by the ſtrength of their caſtles gave him a good deal of trouble. But he ſoon got the better of them. The King died in the year 1137, aged 60 years.

## LEWIS VII. *ſurnamed the Young,*

Aſcended to the Crown the 1ſt of Auguſt, 1137, aged 18. He was ſurnamed the young, to diſtinguiſh him from his father, with whom he had reigned in conjunction for ſome years. This Prince at the ſolicitation of St. Bernard, undertook an expedition to the Holy Land. This coſt him dear, for by the route at Pamphilia, the ſucceſsleſs ſiege of Damaſcus, and long marches in an enemies country, the fine army he carried was ſo ruined, that he found it difficult to bring back a few ſhattered troops to France. He committed another great miſtake in divorcing Eleonora his wife, heireſs of Guyenne and Poitou; but it is not known, whether this was the effect of jealouſy or conſcience, ſhe being his third or fourth couſin. This princeſs was immediately married to Henry Duke of Normandy, afterwards King of England, by the name of Henry II. and thoſe

fine provinces were annexed to the Engliſh Crown. The reſt of his long reign was ſpent in quarrels with his own Barons, and with Henry II. of England. He died of the palſy in the year 1180, aged 60 years.

## PHILIP II. *ſurnamed Auguſtus,*

Succeeded to the Crown in 1180, at the age of 15. He had been crowned at Rheims in his father's time. He took ſeveral places which belonged to Henry II. of England, in France, but reſtored them to his ſon Richard, with whom he ſet out for the Holy Land. They agreed ſo ill, that after taking Ptolemais, Philip feigning illneſs, returned home, and the troops he left under Henry Duke of Burgundy, inſtead of aſſiſting Richard, fruſtrated his attempts upon Jeruſalem. Upon the return of Philip he attacked the dominions of Richard in France; and not ſatisfied with taking from him Normandy, Anjou, Maine, Tourrain, Berry, and Poitou; he ſeconded the endeavours of his brother John to ſupplant him in England. Philip ruined the Count of Thoulouſe, whom the Pope had excommunicated for aſſiſting the Albigen-

ſes; and after this obtained a ſignal victory over the united forces of the Emperor Otho the IVth, and the Count of Flanders, amounting to 150,000 men, near Liſle. Notwithſtanding an invaſion was at the ſame time made in Aquitaine, by the Engliſh, Philip repulſed them, and the war was carried into England by Lewis his ſon with ſome ſucceſs. He died in the year 1223.

## LEWIS VIII. *ſurnamed Coeur de Lion,*

Succeeded his father, the 14th of July, 1223, aged 36. The reign of this Prince was very ſhort. He took however from the Engliſh, Rochelle, and ſome other places in France. He died in the year 1226, aged 39.

## LEWIS IX. *called St. Lewis.*

He aſcended the Throne in the year 1226; aged twelve years. During this minority the nobility conſpired, but without ſucceſs, againſt Blanche of Caſtile, his mother, who had the adminiſtration of affairs. The town of Jeruſalem being in the year 1244 ſacked by the Choraſmians, a people of Perſia, Lewis, at that time

dangerouſly ill, vowed, that if he recovered he would in perſon undertake an expedition againſt the Infidels.

Before his ſetting out he gave public notice that he was ready to make ſatisfaction to any of his ſubjects whom he had wronged or injured, and it was done. In this expedition he took Damieta, and after the waters of the Nile, which for ſome time ſtopt his progreſs, were down, he gained two victories over the Infidels; but as theſe were conſiderably re-inforced, and proviſions failed in the French army, amongſt whom the ſcurvy at the ſame time raged, he thought proper to retreat.—In returning to Damieta his army was defeated, and being himſelf made priſoner, he was for his ranſom, forc'd to ſurrender up Damieta, and pay 400,000 livres. With the remains of his army, from thirty to ſix thouſand men, he made the beſt of his way to Ptolemais, and after giving all the aſſiſtance he could to the Chriſtians, they returned home.

Conrade, King of Naples and Sicily, being aſſaſſinated in this reign by Mainfroy, a natural ſon of the Emperor Frederick II. his dominions were offered by the Pope, of whom they were held as a Fief, to Charles Duke of Anjou, brother of Lewis.

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He accepted of theſe, and was crowned at Rome in the year 1261. The terms were that he ſhould pay the Pope 8000 ounces of gold, and theſe dominions ſhould never be annexed to the Empire: the Pope being unwilling there ſhould be any power in Italy greater than himſelf. Charles ſoon vaanquiſhed Mainfroy, and having put him and his children to death, he took poſſeſſion of the kingdom. An attempt was afterwards made by Conradin, ſon of Conrade, to recover theſe dominions; but being defeated by Charles, in the year 1268, near the lake of Celano, and taken priſoner, he was in the following year, by the Pope's advice, beheaded at Naples; with him ended the illuſtrious race of the Dukes of Suabia. When Charles aſked the Pope what he ſhould do with the priſoner? the anſwer was *Vita Conradini Mors Caroli, Mors Conradini Vita Caroli*; that is, the life of Conradin is the death of Charles, the death of Conradin is the life of Charles. Hence came the pretenſions of France upon Naples; ſhe has however never got any thing by meddling in Italy.

Notwithſtanding Lewis's former unfortunate expedition, he attempted in the year 1270 the conqueſt of Tunis. He flattered himſelf, that beſides the conveni-

ent ſituation of this kingdom for his brother Charles, a way would be thereby opened for conquering Egypt, without which he found nothing was to be done in the Holy Land: but whilſe he was before Tunis in the ſame year, a ſickneſs broke out which carried off himſelf and a great part of his army.

## PHILIP III. *ſurnamed the Hardy,*

Aſcended the throne 1270, at the age of 25. He was ſurnamed the Hardy, becauſe it is ſaid, he was not intimidated at ſeeing himſelf expoſed to a barbarous nation, after the death of his father Lewis. By this Prince, the County of Tholouſe, which deſcended to him by the death of his brother Alphonſo, without iſſue, who had married the Heireſs of the Tholouſe family, was annexed to the Crown. In this reign the Sicilian Maſſacre was perpetrated, by which the French were at once rooted out of Sicily. It was thus occaſioned:

Some Frenchmen having raviſhed the wife of John Prochyta of Salenam, he begged the aſſiſtance of Peter King of Arragan, to drive the French, whoſe many outrages had rendered them deteſtable, out of Sicily. A conſpiracy being ſet on foot,

it

it was countenanced by Pope Nicholas V. and by the Emperor of Conſtantinople, who were both jealous of Charles's power. The injured John, diſguiſed himſelf in the habit of a Monk, and went inceſſantly from one place to another, till the people were ſufficiently ſpirited up for his purpoſe; which, notwithſtanding it had been above three years in agitation, and ſo many were privy to it, was never diſcovered. It was at laſt agreed, that on Eaſter Monday, in the year 1282, at the toll of the bell for evening ſervice, there ſhould be a general maſſacre of the French; and the ſignal was ſo punctually and univerſally obſerved, that in about two hours time, a moſt horrible ſlaughter was made, ſcarce any eſcaping. This being over, Peter King of Arrogan took poſſeſſion of Sicily. The Pope enraged at this, excommunicated Peter, and gave his kingdom of Arragon to Charles the ſecond ſon of Philip. This laſt ſet out with a powerful army, but he was not able to eſtabliſh his ſon in Arragon. Philip died in the year 1285, in his return from the expedition of Arragon, aged 40 years and ſome months.

PHILIP IV. *ſurnamed the Fair*,
Succeeded to the Crown in the year 1285,
aged

aged 17 years. This prince upon ſome frivolous pretences commenced war with the Engliſh, and took from them a great part of Guyenne: it was, however, by a treaty of peace ſoon after reſtored. Being angry with the Count of Flanders, who at the inſtigation of the Engliſh, had united with ſome other Lords againſt him, Philip invaded his country, and took many towns from him; but the Flemings, who were ſoon tired of their ill treatment, cut the French garriſons to pieces. An army was ſent againſt them by Philip, under the command of Robert Count of Artois, which was defeated with the loſs of 20,000 men, in the year 1302, near Courtray. This defeat was, in ſome meaſure, owing to the inconſiderate haſte of the French cavalry, who rode into a ditch. The French had the advantage in an action about two years after, and cut off 25,000 of the enemy, yet as the Flemings ſoon brought into the field an army of 60,000 men, the King of France was glad to make peace with, and leave them in their ancient ſtate. Philip after this, with the Pope's conſent, ſuppreſſed the rich and powerful order of Knights Templars. The King died the 29th of November, 1314, aged 46 years.

LEWIS

*The Sicilian Massacre.*

BRITISH
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## LEWIS X. *ſurnamed Hutin,*

Was crowned at Rheims, and aſcended the Throne in the year 1314; at the age of 23 years. After a ſhort reign, in which nothing remarkable happened, he died in the year 1316; it was ſuſpected he died of poiſon.

## PHILIP V. *ſurnamed the Long,*

Aſcended the Throne in the year 1316; aged 23 years. The daughter of Lewis the Xth, ſupported by her maternal Uncle the Duke of Burgundy, laid claim to the Crown; but it was by virtue of the Salique law determined in favour of Philip the Long his Brother. In this reign the Jews were baniſhed, on ſuſpicion of their having poiſoned the waters. Philip died in the year 1322, aged 28 years.

## CHARLES IV. *ſurnamed the Fair,*

Aſcended the Throne by the Death of his Brother in 1322; aged 26 years. The Lombards and Italians were, on the account of their extortions from the people in his time,

time, expelled the kingdom. He commenced a war with England; but the two nations were ſoon reconciled by the interpoſition of Iſabella his ſiſter, Wife to Edward King of England. He died in the year 1328, aged 33 years.

## PHILIP VI. *ſurnamed of Valois,*

Came to the Crown in 1328; for as neither of the ſons of Philip IV. left iſſue male, France was almoſt ruined by the long continuance of a civil war on account of the ſucceſſion, the right to which was conteſted by Philip of Valois, a Brother's ſon of Philip IV. and by Edward III. of England, ſon to Iſabella daughter, to Philip IV. It was pretended that this laſt was excluded by the Salique law: But he inſiſted that although the ſucceſſion was by this law barred to females, it could not be ſuppoſed to extend to the ſons of the Daughters of France; and that no inſtance could be produced where a king's brother's ſon had been preferred to his daughter's ſon. Notwithſtanding this the ſtates of France, who were unwilling to be dependent on England, and ſtrongly ſolicited ſo to do by Robert Count of Artois, declared for Philip. At firſt Edward ſtifled his reſentment, and

went

went in perſon to do homage to Philip for the Provinces which belonged to him in France: But being irritated to the laſt degree at the treatment of Philip, who obliged him at taking the oath of fealty to lay aſide his Crown, Sceptre and Spurs, and being preſſed by his Engliſh ſubjects not to give up tamely ſo well grounded a right, he ſoon declared war againſt France. He was beſides ſecretly encouraged in this by Robert Count of Artois, brother-in-law to Philip, whom the latter had diſguſted by not allowing his pretenſions to the County of Artois.

In the year 1328, the Flemings who had taken up arms againſt Philip, recieved ſuch a fatal overthrow in the battle of Mont-caſſel, that of 16,000 men very few eſcaped.

The war with England was carried on, a truce or two intervening, without much advantage on either ſide, until Edward landed in Normandy. After taking many places, and braving the French at the gates of Paris, he was marching through Picardy to Flanders; but being overtaken by Philip, a battle was fought at Creſſy near Abbeville, in the year 1347. Some circumſtances were favourable to the Engliſh: Namely, the French troops were fatigued

be

by a long march on the day of battle; ſome Genoeſe foot retreating immediately, their bows being rendered uſeleſs by the rain; the Duke of Alencon ſuſpected treachery, and by riding in amongſt them with his horſe, cauſed the firſt confuſion; the Engliſh had four or five large pieces of cannon, which as they had not heard any thing of the kind before, ſtruck terror into the French; and it may be added, that many French Lords being diſſatisfied with their King, were indifferent about his ſucceſs. It was however a moſt glorious victory: the Engliſh, according to the account of the French Hiſtorians, had no more than 24,000 men, but, the French army conſiſted of near 100,000 men, above 30,000 of the latter were left upon the field. Amongſt the ſlain was John King of Bohemia, who being blind had tied his horſe between the horſes of two friends; and being in this manner conducted into the thickeſt of the battle, they were all found dead together. A great ſlaughter was the next day made amongſt ſome troops; who ignorant of what had happened, were coming to join the French army. After this the Engliſh took Calais, notwithſtanding that Philip had with an army of 150,000 men attempted to relieve it.

Amidſt

Amidſt theſe misfortunes Philip had the ſatisfaction of ſeeing the County of Dauphiny annexed by Humbert, its laſt Count, to the Crown, upon condition that the eldeſt ſon of France ſhould be for the time to come called Dauphin. This Count, who had before put himſelf under the protection of France againſt the Duke of Savoy, upon the death of his ſon, accidently killed by his own hands, retired into a monaſtery, and Philip took poſſeſſion of his county in the year 1349.

In this reign the tax on ſalt, called the gabel, was impoſed, which as it made the ſubjects pay dear for the water of the ſea, and rays of the ſun, gave univerſal diſguſt in France; and was the occaſion of Edward's calling Philip ironically the Author of the Salique law. Philip died in the year 1350, aged 57.

## JOHN

Aſcended the Throne the 23d of June, 1340, aged 30 years. He was ſtill more unfortunate in his wars with England than his father. Prince Edward, who commanded in Guyenne, having penetrated with only 12,000 men a great way into France, and deſtroyed the country; he

was met by John near Poitiers in the year 1356. He offered to make all reaſonable ſatisfaction for the damage he had done; but John, imagining he was in his power, would liſten to no terms, and orders were inſtantly given to fall upon the Engliſh, without regarding their advantageous ſituation amongſt the hedges and vineyards. By the bravery however of the Prince, and the intrepidity of his men, the French army, conſiſting of 50,000 men, was entirely routed, 6000 being, according to their own hiſtorians, killed upon the ſpot, of which 1200 were gentlemen, and 50 of them were noblemen. The King and his youngeſt ſon were taken priſoners; the three eldeſt ſaved themſelves by flying with their governor, before the action was over.

During the impriſonment of John, who was carried into England, France was reduced to a miſerable condition. The people having been a long time oppreſſed, would not ſubmit to the Dauphin, who took upon him the adminiſtration of affairs; the peaſants paid no regard to the authority of the nobility, and the ſoldiers being ill paid, lived by plunder. Charles, King of Navarre, took the advantage of this confuſed ſtate of things to lay claim to

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the Crown; matters were however accommodated with him.

At the ſame time, as the ſtates of France refuſed to accept the terms offered, the King of England, at the head of a powerful army, ravaged great part of France: but a treaty was at length concluded, at Bretigny, in the year 1360. By this it was agreed, that to what already belonged to the Engliſh in France, Poitou, Saintongue, Rochelle, le pais d'Aulnis, Perigord, L'Angoumois, Quercy, Limoſin, Bigorre and L'Agenois, with their ſovereignties, ſhould be added; that Edward ſhould keep Calais, and the counties of Oye, Guiſnes, and Pouthieu, and that 3,000000 of livres ſhould be paid for the King's ranſom. John being in want of money, did after this a very diſhonourable thing to his daughter, whom he ſold in marriage to the Duke of Milan, for 600,000 crowns. The Duchy of Burgundy becoming vacant in his time, he gave it to his ſon Philip the Bold, from whom deſcended thoſe famous Dukes of Burgundy, whoſe territories came at laſt to the houſe of Auſtria. John died in England, in the year 1364, aged 44 years; whither he, as ſome ſay, had given his word to return, having left his ſon as

an hoſtage: others ſay he only went thither to ſee a lady with whom he was in love.

## CHARLES V. *ſurnamed the Wiſe,*

Aſcended to the Throne in the year 1364, aged 27 years. This Prince having nothing in him of his grandfather's or father's raſhneſs, always avoided coming to a battle with the Engliſh, and endeavoured, by gaining time, to tire them out. He ſent a number of ſoldiers, who being diſbanded, could not be eaſily kept in order, into Spain, where Peter the Cruel and Henry I. were at war about the Crown of Caſtile. Theſe ſoldiers in their march committed ſuch havock, that the Pope, to prevent their paſſing through Avignon, ſent them 200,000 livres, with a good ſtore of indulgences. Edward the Black Prince of England, who alſo took part in that war. having hurt his conſtitution, and drained his purſe, he laid ſome taxes ou his ſubjects in Guyenne. Complaint being made to the French Court, Charles, who was prepared for a war, and well knew the Prince's ill ſtate of health, ſummoned him to appear at Paris, pretending, that as hoſtilities had been committed by the Engliſh, contrary to the treaty of Bretigny, the ſovereignty of Guyenne

enne was forfeited. Upon receiving a diſdainful anſwer from the Prince, Charles declared war, and having ordered many faſts and proceſſions, he recommended it to the prieſts, to preach up in the moſt pathetic terms, the juſtice of his cauſe, and the injuſtice of the Engliſh. This had a good effect; for his own ſubjects not only contributed freely towards carrying on the war, but was ſo agreeable to the French, under the dominion of the Engliſh, that 50 cities and caſtles were by the influence of the Archbiſhop of Thouloufe alone brought over to his intereſt.

The Engliſh fleet being deſtroyed by that of Spain off Rochelle, great part of what the Engliſh had gained by the laſt treaty was loſt before the ſuccours for the Black Prince, which were detained by contrary winds, could arrive in France. 30,000 Men being afterwards landed at Calais, marched from thence ravaging the country as they went towards Guyenne; yet Charles would not hazard a battle, but contented himſelf with annoying them in their march. Whilſt the Pope was endeavouring a reconciliation, Prince Edward, his illneſs increaſing, left the army, and ſhortly after died in England. Charles took the advantage of his

death to attack the Engliſh with five different armies, and was ſo ſucceſsful, that in a ſhort time, nothing remained to England in France, but Calais, Bourdeaux, Bayonne and Cherburg. In gaining theſe advantages over the Engliſh, Bertrand de Gueſelin, Conſtable of France, had a great ſhare. Charles ſome time after took the opportunity of England's being weakened by a plague, and engaged with the Scotch to make a deſcent upon that kingdom, but he gained nothing by it. In the year 1378 the Emperor paid a viſit to Charles at Paris, and made the Dauphin irrevocable vicar of the Empire in Dauphiny; which, as the French ſay, was giving up all the right of the Emperors of Germany to this province and the kingdom of Arles. Charles died in the year 1380, aged 44 years.

## CHARLES VI.

Succeeded to the Crown in 1380, at the age of 12 years and nine months. In the firſt year of his reign affairs went on very indifferently in France: Charles exhauſted his father's treaſury in maintaining the rights of Lewis Duke of Anjou, whom Jane Queen of Naples had adopted heir to that kingdom.

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The Duke of Anjou after taking poſſeſſion of Provence, which belonged to Jane, notwithſtanding that Charles de Duras, who had put her to death, was in poſſeſſion of this kingdom, ſet out with an army of 30,000 horſe for Naples: but after great fatigue, without gaining any advantage againſt Duras, he, in the year 1384 died, in a miſerable condition, and a very few of the fine army ever returned to France. In the beginning of this reign the miniſtry promiſed to take off ſome heavy taxes; but inſtead of this, new ones were laid on, and ſwallowed up by favourites, which ſo enraged the people, that in Paris and many other places, the inhabitants took up arms. A ſtop was put to theſe inſurrections by cutting off 40,000 of the rebels in Flanders, together with Artevelle their general: the ill ſucceſs however of the war againſt England, which coſt great ſums, encreaſed the diſcontents of the people.

In the year 1389, Lewis Duke of Orleans, brother to the King, married Valentia, daughter of the Duke of Milan, and was to have with her, beſides money and jewels to a great amount, the county of Aſti. It was alſo agreed, that in caſe her father ſhould die without iſſue male, the

Duchy

Duchy of Milan ſhould deſcend to Valentia and her heirs.

The King, whoſe conſtitution was much impaired by the debaucheries of his youth, as he was going on horſeback into Bretany, became quite mad. This was ſaid to be occaſioned in the following manner. In the way a tall black man *appeared to him, and ſaid, ſtop King! whither would you go? you are betrayed!* preſently, one of his attendants, overcome with ſleep, let his lance fall upon the helmit of another who rode next before him; at which the King, imagining it to be a ſignal, was exceedingly frightened. Whether it was owing to this, or to the heat of the weather, it being in Auguſt, he loſt his ſenſes, and though he had ſome intervals, never came rightly to himſelf.

Charles being rendered incapable to govern, great diſputes aroſe concerning the regency, betwixt his brother the Duke of Orleans, and Philip Duke of Burgundy, his uncle. As the latter had had more experience, he was declared Regent, yet, though the Duke of Orleans failed in his attempt to get poſſeſſion of the capital, he had a large party. At the death of his father, in the year 1404, John Duke of Burgundy took poſſeſſion of the Regency.

The

The hatred between John and the Duke of Orleans being increaſed, the former, notwithſtanding a pretended reconciliation, cauſed the latter to be aſſaſſinated in the year 1407, as he was walking the ſtreets of Paris by night. This piece of villainy, inſtead of ſtrengthening his party, increaſed that of the ſon's, left by his rival, and the whole kingdom being divided into parties, murders, devaſtations, and all the miſeries of civil war enſued.

Theſe inteſtine troubles, which at laſt ended in the ruin of the Burgundian party, gave the King of England an opportunity of landing an army in Normandy; but after taking Harfleur, in the year 1415, their army being much weakened by ſickneſs, were retiring to Calais.

In the way they were met at Agincourt, by a French army, which their own hiſtorians allow to be at leaſt four times the number of the Engliſh. Notwithſtanding this great inequality, and the ſickneſs which reigned amongſt the Engliſh, they fought ſo deſparately, that 6000 of the French were killed on the ſpot, and a great number taken priſoners, amongſt whom were many of the firſt rank. The Engliſh hiſtorians make the loſs of the French much greater, and indeed it ſeldom happens, that the hiſtorians

torians of two nations at war, agree in their relations of things of this ſort; but however that was, the Engliſh were not in a condition to puſh the advantage they had gained. This defeat was ſo far from compoſing the inteſtine diviſions among the French, that notwithſtanding the danger from a foreign enemy, they grew worſe, and the Duke of Burgundy finding his party decline, went over to the Engliſh, who in another campaign made great progreſs in Normandy.

The government had been for ſome time ſhared by the Queen and the Conſtable of France, but her imprudent conduct having excited the King's jealouſy, ſhe was, by the advice of the Dauphin, baniſhed from Court, which ſo exaſperated her, that ſhe joined with the Duke of Burgundy againſt the Dauphin her own ſon, and civil war raged again with freſh fury. An accommodation was afterwards propoſed with the Duke of Burgundy, but in the ſecond meeting had for this purpoſe, the Dauphin cauſed him to be aſſaſſinated. This, inſtead of putting a ſtop at once, as the Dauphin hoped it would, to the diſorders of the ſtate, had a quite contrary effect, for it rendered him ſo deteſtable to the people in general, as to give the Queen an opportunity of excluding him from the ſucceſſion.

To

To do this effectually, peace was concluded with Henry V. of England, and it was agreed that Henry ſhould marry Catherine daughter of Charles VI. that he ſhould have the Regency of France during the life of Charles, and after his death the Crown of France ſhould be united to that of England; each kingdom was however to be governed by its own laws. A day was alſo fixed for the Dauphin to appear at Paris, and anſwer for the murder of the Duke of Burgundy; in default of which he was declared incapable of ſucceeding to the Crown, and baniſhed the kingdom. From this ſentence he appealed to God and his Sword, and ſet up his ſtandard at Poitiers, but only the provinces of Anjou, Poitou, Berry, Tours, Auvergne, and Languedoc ſided with him. It happened however luckily for him, that Henry died ſhortly after in the meridian of his glory, and the death of Charles his father, whoſe life had long occaſioned a great expence to France, followed in the ſame year 1422, aged 54 years.

CHARLES VII. *ſurnamed the Victorious,*

Aſcended the Throne in the year 1422; aged 20 years. He had however great difficulties

difficulties to ſurmount; for the Duke of Bedford appointed Regent of France, having cauſed Henry VI. King of England to be proclaimed at Paris, endeavoured in conjunction with the Dukes of Burgundy and Bretany to drive Charles out of the kingdom. His forces were ſeveral times beat, and being abandoned by many cities at once, he was in deriſion, from its being his uſual reſidence, called King of Bourges. He was at laſt reduced to the greateſt neceſſity, being ſcarce able to keep an open table, and had it not been for the miſunderſtanding which at this time aroſe betwixt the Engliſh and the Duke of Burgundy, his affairs muſt have been entirely ruined.

The occaſion was this: Jaquiline, Counteſs of Hainault, after being divorced from John Duke of Brabant, couſin to the Duke of Burgundy, had married to the Duke of Glouceſter, brother to Henry V. when the Duke of Burgundy joined with John in his reſentment againſt the Duke of Glouceſter. Great pains were taken by the Duke of Bedford to reconcile theſe two: But it was in vain; for the Burgundian had at the bottom an averſion to the Engliſh; and this was lately encreaſed by their refuſing to let the town of Orleans be put into his hands. While the Engliſh were before this place,

which

which was reduced to the laſt extremity, the French attacked a convoy going to their camp. Being worſted in this engagement, which has always been called, perhaps from ſome herrings carried by the convoy, the battle of the herrings, Charles deſparing of ſucceſs was going to retire into Dauphiny, when an unlooked for-bleſſing happened to him.

A damſel of Arc in Lorraine, named Joan, being introduced to him, ſhe told Charles ſhe had a commiſſion from God to relieve Orleans and to ſee him crowned at Rheims. As both theſe predictions came to paſs, the Engliſh was diſmayed, and the French began to take courage. This maid, who afterwards did wonders, was taken priſoner at the Siege of Compeigne; and being delivered to the Engliſh, was to their great diſgrace, burnt as a witch at Roan in the year 1431.

For the ſake of re-eſtabliſhing their affairs, the Engliſh cauſed Henry VI. to come over to France, and he was crowned at Paris. They alſo, to keep him more firm to their intereſt, gave the Counties of Brie and Champaigne to the Duke of Burgundy; but all would not do. After the war had continued ſome time longer, without any thing conſiderable being done on either ſide,

negociations for a peace, were at the ſolicitations of the Pope, ſet on foot at Arras: But as the Engliſh would abate nothing of their pretenſions, a treaty was concluded in the year 1435, betwixt Charles and the Duke of Burgundy, which was very much to the advantage of the latter. Soon after the Engliſh had the misfortune to loſe the Duke of Bedford, who had all along conducted their affairs with great prudence and bravery; which was followed with the ſubmiſſion of many cities, and amongſt the reſt, of Paris to Charles.

France, already quite exhauſted by war, was afterwards viſited with famine; and to this ſucceeded a plague: Which cauſed ſo great deſolation, that wolves came into the ſuburbs of Paris and devoured young children.

A truce being at length concluded with England, Charles, for the ſake of employing his ſoldiers, ſent a large body of them to diſturb the council of Baſil: But after an engagement with the Swiſs, in which 8000 of them were killed, the reſt returned home.

The ancient valour of the Engliſh being leſſened, their troops in France were but few; and theſe being ill paid, lived by plunder. England was beſides much diſturbed by

by inteſtine troubles; and it had ſuffered greatly in two battles with the Scotch. Charles, judging this conjuncture favourable, under a pretence that the Engliſh had broke the truce, attacked them in the year 1449, with great vigour; and in about three months time drove them quite out of Normandy. In the next year he became maſter of all Guyenne, except Bayonne; which being taken in the year 1451, nothing remained to the Engliſh in France, except Calais and the County of Guiſnes. Thus the kingdom of France, great part of which had been above 300 years ſubject to England, was almoſt all united under Charles. The joy upon this occaſion was decreaſed by the quarrel betwixt Charles and his ſon, who kept away from Court for the ſpace of 13 years. Charles died in the year 1461, aged 58 years. It is ſaid he died through want of ſuſtenance, for fear of being poiſoned.

## LEWIS XI,

Came to the Throne in the year 1461, aged 39 years. He was a cunning, reſolute and cruel Prince; he laid the foundation of that abſolute power which the French Kings have ſince enjoyed. His firſt ſtep

was to remove all the miniſtry who would not come into his meaſures: The conſequences of which being foreſeen, a league was entered into by many of the principal nobility for preſerving the liberties of the people againſt the encroachments of the prerogative. Into this, which was called the league for the public good, the Dukes of Burgundy and Bretany entered: And the former having entered France with a powerful army, came to an engagement with Lewis near Mont—l'heri. No great advantage was gained on either ſide; yet as the king retired with his troops in the night following, the Duke claimed the victory; and he was encouraged to form too great deſigns, which in the end coſt him his life.

To extricate himſelf from theſe difficulties, Lewis took off ſome taxes, and amuſed the people with fair promiſes; all which as ſoon as the danger was over he forgot. Having bought off ſome of the heads of the league, he found means to ſow diſcord amongſt the reſt; and at laſt to diſſolve it quite. Still the Duke of Burgundy held it out, and having in the year 1468, ſurrounded him at Peronne, Lewis was very near being taken priſoner. This troubleſome enemy being in the year 1477 killed by

by the Swiſs before Nancy, Lewis ſeized his dominions, and it was thought he would by marriage have annexed them to the French Crown: His enmity however to the Burgundian family was ſuch, that he rather choſe to ruin it entirely.

Two years before the Duke of Burgundy's death, Edward IV. of England landed in France with a large army: But he was prevailed on by the preſents and promiſes of Lewis to return home. Provence, Anjou, and Maine, were afterwards annexed to the crown of France, Charles, the laſt male heir of the family theſe belonged to, having bequeathed them by will to Lewis; nor was any regard paid to the claim put in by Rene, duke of Lorrain, in the right of his mother. It was the practice of Lewis to borrow money of his officers, and whoever refuſed to lend was diſcharged. Hence that vile cuſtom in France of ſelling offices took its riſe. The latter part of his life was quite miſerable; he was continually tormented with the fear of death. He died in the year 1483, aged 60 years.

## CHARLES VIII,

Succeeded to the Crown in the year 1483; aged 13 years and two months.

He had in the beginning of his reign a quarrel with the Duke of Bretany, and took the field with a deſign to ſubdue this province: But underſtanding that a match was agreed upon betwixt Maximilian of Auſtria, and Anne heireſs of Bretany, and being unwilling that a right to this Dutchy ſhould paſs to the houſe of Auſtria, he by perſuaſion and threatning prevailed upon the lady to break with Maxamilian, andmarry him. By this, which happen'd in the year 1491, Bretany was annexed to the Crown of France. Henry VII. of England, having ſhortly after laid ſiege to Boulougne, he was prevailed upon by a ſum of money to retire. Henry was the more willing to do this, becauſe Maximilian, whom Charles had affronted, not only in robbing him of his miſtreſs, but alſo in ſending back his ſiſter Margaret to whom he was engaged, did not join with him as he had promiſed. After this ſeparate peace with Henry, Maximilian, who had already taken Arras and St. Omers, conſented that his ſon Philip, Governor of the Netherlands, ſhould come to an agreement with Charles. The Raſillon and Cerdagne were ſoon after ceded by Charles to Ferdinand of Caſtile. Some think this was done to prevent Ferdinand's oppoſing his enterprize againſt Naples; others

others that his confeſſor, bribed by Ferdinand, perſuaded him to reſtore theſe provinces to their lawful ſovereign. As France was now in a flouriſhing condition, Charles, under a pretence that the right of the houſe of Anjou to Naples, which was by the will of the laſt Duke given to Lewis XI. devolved upon him, reſolved to attack this kingdom. He was encouraged to do this by Lewis Sforca, ſurnamed the Moor, Duke of Milan, which Duchy he had unjuſtly taken from hisnephew, John Galeace, to whom he was governor. The Moor hoped by this to divert the reſentment of Ferdinand King of Naples, for this ill treatment of Galeace, who was by marriage nearly allied to Ferdinand.

In the year 1494, Charles ſet out for Italy; and being arrived at Rome, was declared by the Pope, who durſt not refuſe it, King of Naples. As Ferdinand and his ſon were both univerſally deteſted for their cruelty, he eaſily became maſter of the capital; and the whole kingdom, except the Iſle of Iſchia and the cities of Brundiſi, and Galipoli ſubmitted to him. The conqueſt of ſo fine a kingdom, and within five months, alarmed the Sultan, who well knew the diſpoſitions of the Greeks to revolt upon the leaſt aſſiſtance from the French;

French; and inſtead of taking pains to ſecure himſelf in his new kingdom, Charles minded only his pleaſures: By which, and other ill conduct, he ſoon loſt the affections of the Neapolitans.

This acquiſition being alſo looked upon with jealous eyes by the other powers of Europe, an alliance was entered into by the Emperor, the Pope, Ferdinand King of Caſtile, the Duke of Milan, and the republic of Venice, for driving the French out of Italy: Upon which Charles, fearing his retreat might be cut off, made the beſt of his way for France, without leaving a ſufficient number of troops for the defence of Naples. In their way the French had an engagement with, and defeated the allied army, near the Taro; they however continued their rout with great diligence. As Charles had taken ſo little care for the preſervation of Naples, this kingdom was, to his great diſgrace, re-conquered within the ſpace of a year, and very few of the French left there, had the happineſs to return home. In the year 1498, Charles died, aged 27 years, without leaving any iſſue.

LEWIS XII. *ſurnamed the Father of his people,*

Aſcended the Throne in the year 1498, aged

aged 36 years. He was grandſon of Lewis Duke of Orleans, and Mary of Cleves. He married the late King's widow, and ſoon after his acceſſion ſet up a claim to Milan, founded on the right of Valentina his grandmother, and took poſſeſſion of it without ſhedding a drop of blood, Lewis, the moor, flying with his family into Germany. He however returned with an army of Swiſs, and as his ſubjects, irritated at the liberties taken with their wives and daughters, by the French, received him with great joy, he ſoon recovered all, except the caſte of Milan, and city of Novara. Upon the arrival of freſh troops from France, the Swiſs refuſed to fight, and the Duke, endeavouring to eſcape in the habit of a common ſoldier, was diſcovered and put into priſon, where he died 10 years after.

Fluſhed with this ſucceſs, Lewis reſolved to attempt the conqueſt of Naples, and the better to ſucceed, entered into an agreement with Ferdinand, the catholic, for dividing this kingdom betwixt them. This conqueſt coſt very little trouble, for in the year 1501, Frederick, King of Naples, ſubmitted to Lewis, and was ſupported in France afterwards with a penſion of 30,000 crowns.

As

As the two nations could not agree about ſettleing their reſpective ſhares, it came to blows, in which the French had, at firſt, the advantage, but by the brave conduct of Gonſalvo, of Corduba, the Spaniſh general, they were in a ſhort time driven out of the kingdom. To make amends for this loſs, Lewis, in the next campaigne, ſet five armies on foot, yet finding he could gain no advantage, he was glad to make peace with Ferdinand.

In the year 1507, the city of Genoa, at that time belonging to the Duchy of Milan, revolted, but it was ſoon reduced to obedience. A war was not long after commenced againſt the Venetians, whoſe encroachments on all their neighbours could no longer be ſupported. To humble this proud ſtate, an alliance was entered into at Cambray, betwixt the Emperor, the Pope, and the Kings of France and Spain. Being hurried into this confederacy with his natural enemies, and againſt a ſtate whoſe friendſhip he ought to have cultivated, by a notion that the Venetians had contributed to his loſs of Naples, Lewis was the firſt who took the field againſt them. The total rout of their army ear Giera, in the year 1509, ſtruck ſuch terror into the Venetians, that they abandoned

abandoned all on the Continent, and if Lewis had puſhed his ſucceſs, they muſt have been quite ruined. Inſtead of this, he, by returning to Milan, gave the Venetians time to recover themſelves, eſpecially as they ſaw the other allies of Cambray were not in earneſt. In the year 1510, the Pope, Ferdinand, Henry VIII. of England, and the Swiſs, united with Venice againſt France. The two firſt were grown jealous of Lewis's power in Italy; Henry being juſt come to the throne, had a mind to diſtinguiſh himſelf, and the Swiſs were angry becauſe their ſubſidy was not paid. In this war, the French general, Gaſton de Foix, behaved extremely well. Having relieved Bologna, he obtained a victory over the Venetians in the Breſſan, and cut in pieces above 8000 of them. He afterwards routed the confederate army near Ravenna, but by purſuing too far he was ſlain. The death of this hero was a fatal ſtroke to the French, who ſoon loſt all in Italy, and Maximilian, ſon of Lewis the moor, was reſtored by the Swiſs to Milan. During this war, John d'Albert, an ally of the French, loſt his kingom of Navarre, nor could the French recover it for him from Ferdinand King of Spain. As Lewis ſet his heart much on Milan, he

made peace with the Venetians, and had in the year 1512 regained moſt of it, but by the coming up of ſome Swiſs ſuccours, the ſiege of Novarra, where Maximilian had ſhut himſelf up, was raiſed, and the French were once more forced to evacuate this Duchy. In the mean time France was attacked by the Emperor, England, and the Swiſs; and if Henry of England had joined the Swiſs, Lewis would in all probability have been ruined; but inſtead of advancing into the heart of the kingdom, Henry amuſed himſelf with the ſiege of Terouane; the French endeavouring to relieve it, were defeated near Guinegaſt. This battle, in which the French uſed their ſpurs more than their ſwords, has been always called the battle of the ſpurs. Henry after having taken Tournay, he went back to England, and the Duke of Tremouille, by promiſing that their arrears ſhould be paid, that the council of Piſa ſhould be broke up, and that all pretenſions to the Milaneſe ſhould be waved, prevailed on the Swiſs to raiſe the ſiege of Dijon. The excuſe for not fulfilling theſe engagements was, that they were made without the King's order; it would however have coſt the hoſtages left by the Duke dear, if the Swiſs had not preferred the large ſums offered

offered them to their blood. In the next year Lewis concluded a treaty with England, and married Mary, Henry's ſiſter. Lewis, who was ſo beloved by his ſubjects, as to be called the father of his people, died in the year 1515, aged 53 years. At his deceaſe the bell-men went about ringing their bells, and crying along the ſtreets, the good King Lewis, father of his people, is dead.

## FRANCIS I. *ſurnamed the Patron of Learning,*

Succeeded to the Crown, 1ſt of January, in the year 1515, aged 21 years. He was Count de'Angouleme and Duke de Valois, great grandſon of Lewis Duke of Orleans, and Valentine of Milan. Having confirmed the alliance with the Engliſh and republic of Venice, and entered into one with Charles King of Spain, made an interruption into Italy, and meeting with little reſiſtance, became maſter of Genoa, and a great part of Milan. Being ſoon after unexpectedly attacked in his camp, at Marignan, by the Swiſs, both ſides fought deſperately, and the Swiſs were repulſed with the loſs of 10,000 men. This victory was followed with the ſur-

render of Maximilian and his whole Duchy to Francis, who allowed him a yearly penſion of 30,000 ducats, and the Swiſs finding that Francis was willing to pay their ſubſidy, ſhortly after entered into an alliance with him. By an agreement with Pope Leo X. Francis was to have the right of preſentation to all eccleſiaſtical benefices in Milan, but the Pope was to have the firſt fruits of the moſt conſiderable. In the year 1518, the Engliſh, for a ſum of money, delivered up Tournay.

Upon the death of the Emperor Maximilian in the next year, Francis uſed his utmoſt endeavours to obtain the imperial dignity. The Archdnke Charles being preferred to him, his next care was to guard againſt the deſigns of this enterpriſing prince; and his jealouſy of Charles ſoon ſhewed itſelf by declaring war. As Spain was diſturbed by domeſtic feuds, he found no great difficulty in conquering Navarre, but in the year 1521, the Spaniards drove the French out of Navarre, and hoſtilities were commenced in the Low Countries; where Robert Baron of Sedan, after putting himſelf under the protection of Francis, had attacked Luxemburg. Charles ſoon reduced him to obedience, and concluding his revolt was ſpirited up by the French,

took

took from them St. Amand and Tournay.

In Italy the French were defeated by the Germans, near Bicoca, and having abandoned Milan, Francis Sforca was by the Emperor and the Pope eſtabliſhed there. Fontarabia in Flanders was re-taken likewiſe in this campaign, for the delivering up of which Charles had before offered to make peace. But this ill ſucceſs of the French was in a great meaſure owing to Charles Duke of Bourbon going into the Emperor's ſervice.

His reaſon was ſuppoſed to be the ill uſage he met with from the Queen's-mother, by whom a ſuit was commenced for taking away his Duchy of Bourbon, which, as he had no hopes of ſucceeding againſt ſo powerful a rival, determined him to enter into an alliance with the Emperor and King of England. It was agreed by them, that France ſhould be divided betwixt the two laſt, and that the Duke of Bourbon, who was to marry the Emperor's ſiſter, ſhould have the kingdom of Arles. While a deſcent was made on Picardy by the Engliſh: the Duke of Bourbon in the year 1524 repulſed with great loſs a French army in the Milaneſe, which was commanded by the admiral Bonnevet.

Francis being in the next campaign perſuaded by Bonnevet to take the command on the ſide of Italy in perſon, he was the more willing to do it, becauſe Charles had already entered Provence, and laid ſiege to Marſeilles. Being arrived in Italy, Francis ſat down before Pavia: But after his troops had for two months been fatigued with the ſiege of this place, the Duke of Bourbon, who at firſt retired, having received a conſiderable reinforcement, fell upon him in his camp, and after routing his army made him priſoner.

As the cloſe confinement of Francis, who was carried into Spain, threw him into a dangerous diſtemper, his miniſters fearing he would die a priſoner, conſented at laſt to the terms of ranſom propoſed by Spain.

About this time a confederacy was entered into by England, and the ſtates of Italy, for checking the power of Charles, which ſeemed to threaten the liberties of Europe. The conditions of this releaſe being very diſhonourable, Francis, notwithſtanding he had gave his word to return if they were not performed, declared them not binding, becauſe they were extorted from him while he was a priſoner; and that as they were moreover contrary to his coronation

coronation oath, it was out of his power to perform them. The ſame was aſſerted by the ſtates of France, and the Burgundians inſiſted that he could not ſeparate Burgundy, to which he had only a right for life from the French Crown. Francis ſoon after allied himſelf to England and the ſtates of Italy, and as terms of peace could not be agreed upon, war was declared by all theſe againſt the Emperor. Being taxed by Charles with having broke his word, Francis gave him the lie in plain terms, and ſent him a challenge; this behaviour was however looked upon as quite unbecominga prince.

The army of France which was commanded by Odet de Foix, Baron of Lautrec, after making great progreſs in the Milaneſe, penetrated into Naples, and laid ſiege to the capital: But a ſtop was put to this ſucceſs by the imprudence of Francis, who refuſed to beſtow the government of Genoa on admiral Andrea Doria, a native, and to reſtore the town of Savona to this republic. Doria went over to the party of Charles, and had a great ſhare in preſerving the communication with Naples by ſea. During the long ſiege of this town, a plague broke out in the French army; which having carried off great numbers with their general the reſt were made priſoners.

This was followed with the loſs of all in Milan: and that great man Doria acquired immortal glory by preſerving the liberty of his country, when it was in his power to take upon himſelf the ſovereign authority.

At length, Francis being deſirous that his children left as hoſtages, ſhould have their liberty, a treaty was in the year 1529 concluded at Cambray, by which he agreed to pay a large ſum for the ranſom of his ſons, to give up the ſovereignty of Artois and Flanders to Charles, and to renounce all pretenſions to Italy.

The war being renewed in the year 1535, Francis had a mind to open himſelf a way to Milan, through Savoy, and having ſet up pretenſions to this Duchy in the right of his mother, he ſoon became maſter of moſt of it. On the death of Sforca, which happened about the ſame time, it was reſolved by the Emperor, to annex the Duchy of Milan to the dominions of the houſe of Auſtria. Having, after making ſure of this Duchy, thrown himſelf into Provence, with an army of 50,000 men, he pillaged Aix, and laid ſiege to Marſeilles, but his army falling ſick he thought proper to retire. Another army from

from the Netherlands, which penetrated at the ſame time into Picardy, was, after taking Guiſe, St. Pol, and Montreal, defeated before Peronne. Upon this ſucceſs, Francis pretending that the ſovereignty of Artois and Flanders, were inſeparable from the French crown, ſummoned Charles to appear as his vaſſal for theſe counties; and he likewiſe entered into an alliance with the Turks. The firſt of theſe appeared to all mankind ridiculous, and the ſecond was thought extraordinary in a chriſtian prince, but Francis endeavoured to excuſe it by ſaying, that the Emperor had endeavoured to do the ſame. By the mediation of the Pope, the truce concluded the year before at Nice, was, in the year 1538, prolonged for the term of nine years, and theſe two princes, who had been ſo long inveterate enemies, in an interview at Aigues-Mortes, gave each other the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of being heartily reconciled. In the following year Charles, ſuch was his confidence in Francis, went through France to quiet a commotion in Ghent. He however, for his greater ſecurity, made the French King believe he would give up the Milaneſe to him. This being afterwards refuſed, the conſtable of Montmorency was diſgraced, for adviſing Francis not

not to inſiſt upon a promiſe in writing from Charles when he went to Paris.

In the year 1542 the truce was broke by Francis, whoſe ambaſſadors Cæſar Fregoſa and Anthony Rincon in their way through Milan to Venice were murdered, as it was ſuppoſed by order of the governor; and as Charles had lately ſuffered ſome loſs before Algiers, he thinking the opportunity favourable, reſolved to attack him with five armies, at the ſame time; one of theſe took many places in Luxemburg, and a diverſion being made in Hungary, by Solyman, Emperor of the Turks, Gran, and ſome other towns on that ſide were taken. The pirate Barbaroſſa came alſo to the aſſiſtance of the French, but his Corſairs did them more hurt than good. Charles on his part, concluded an alliance with Henry VIII. of England, whom Francis had diſguſted by aſſiſting the Scotch, and after chaſtiſing the Duke of Cleves, for his attachment to France, ſat down before Landrecy. His attempt failed on this place, and the French in the mean time obtained a victory over the Imperialiſts, near Cereſoles, in Piedmont, but they could not improve it, becauſe many of their troops were recalled to oppoſe the Emperor and Henry, who had agreed to enter

enter France with an army of 100,000 men. The Emperor had, after taking Luxemburg, advanced as far as Chateau, Thierry, and the city of Paris was in the greateſt conſternation. If Henry had at this time made the beſt of his way through Picardy, according to the agreement betwixt him and Charles, that metropolis muſt have fallen into their hands, and they might have penetrated into the heart of the kingdom. As he did not, Charles concluded a treaty with Francis at Creſpy, in the year 1547, by which it was agreed, that all places taken ſhould be reſtored on both ſides. Charles moreover promiſed to the Duke of Orleans, ſecond ſon of Francis, his daughter in marriage, with either the Duchy of Milan or the Netherlands as a portion, but this match was prevented from taking effect by the Duke's death. Francis died in the year 1547, aged 52 years.

## HENRY II,

Aſcended the Throne the 31ſt of March, 1547, at 29 years of age. This Prince, ſoon after his acceſſion, took poſſeſſion of the Marquiſate of Salucca, which fell to him by the death af Gabriel, the laſt Marquis,

quis, without heirs. In the year 1549, he ſeverely puniſhed the inhabitants of Bourdeaux who had revolted, and in the next year Bouloign was bought of the Engliſh for a ſum of money. As the Emperor was engaged with the Turks with his proteſtant ſubjects in Germany, Henry in the year 1551 reſolved to break with him. Having concluded an alliance with Maurice, elector of Saxony, he, in the year 1552, marched an army towards the Rhine, which in its way ſurprized Metz, Toul, and Verdun, and was very near doing the ſame to Strarſburgh; but a ſeparate peace being made by Maurice with the Emperor, and Henry being requeſted by ſome German princes to go no further into the empire, he retired. Henry in his return took ſeveral places in Luxemburgh. Metz being after this beſieged by Charles, with an army of 100,000 men, the Duke of Guiſe defended it ſo bravely, that after great loſs he gave over the ſiege. In revenge for this diſappointment, he threw himſelf into the county Artois, and having taken Terouanne, entirely demoliſhed it: Heſden had the ſame fate, and the garriſons of both places were put to the ſword. In Italy the French took Sienne, and ſome places in the iſland of Corſica, but being defeated

defeated in the year 1555, near Marciano, they abandoned the former.

Charles, who in the year 1556 reſigned the Spaniſh crown, being deſirous that the beginning of his ſon's reign ſhould be peaceable, had agreed upon a ſuſpenſion of arms, but this was ſcarce ſigned before hoſtilities were, at the inſtigation of Pope Paul VI. recommenced. The Duke of Guiſe was ſent into Italy with a powerful army, but did nothing remarkable. Philip having engaged England on bis ſide, beſieged St. Quintin, with an army of 50,000 men: the conſtable, Montmorency attempted to relieve this place, but he was entirely defeated. If this victorious army had marched directly towards Paris, France would have been in a bad condition; but Philip, ſuſpecting that the Duke of Savoy, his ally, might for the ſake of obtaining good terms reconcile himſelf to France, would not ſuffer it to advance into the country. After taking St. Quintin by ſtorm, the reſt of the campaign was waſted in taking Han, Chatelet, and Noyon. The French having by theſe means time to re-eſtabliſh their affairs, Thionville, Calais, and ſome other places were afterwards taken from the Engliſh by the Duke of Guiſe. In the year 1559 the French army, under Marſhal

ſhal de Termes, was beat near Gravelins, and, with a view to the annexing of Scotland to the crown of France, the Dauphin was married to Mary, Queen of Scots, but there being no iſſue of this marriage, the ſcheme failed. A treaty being in the ſame year concluded at Chateau Cambreſis, the conditions were, that Chatelet, Han, St. Quintin, and 198 other towns, ſhould be given up to Spain and other powers, and that the Duke of Savoy ſhould be fully reſtored to his dominions. After the making of his peace, which was indeed very prejudicial to France, it was reſolved by the ſtates to meddle no more in Italy, and to break the alliance with the Turks. In the year 1559, Henry in tilting with the Earl of Montgomery, received a wound in his eye, which inſtantly took away his ſenſes and ſpeech, and carried him off at the end of eleven days. This unhappy accident ſpoiled the mirth of the marriage, which had before been concluded betwixt his ſiſter Margaret, and Philibert, Duke of Savoy.

## FRANCIS II,

Aſcended the Throne in the year 1559, at 16 years of age. Soon after his acceſſion, the

the civil wars, by which France was ſo long ravaged, were commenced. In order to underſtand the origin of theſe aright, it is neceſſary to look back.

The houſe of Bourbon, which, next to the reigning family of Valois, had the beſt right to the crown, had, for a long time, encreaſed ſo much in riches and power, as to make ſome former Kings jealous. Francis I. did indeed, in the beginning of his reign, make Charles Duke of Bourbon, conſtable of France, and prime miniſter; but the maxim of keeping this houſe under, which his predeceſſor had followed, ſoon prevailed,

This being perceived, Charles went into the Emperor's ſervice, and he it was who commanded the Imperial army at the battle of Pavia, where Francis was made priſoner. After many ſignal ſervices he was ſlain, at the ſtorming of Rome, in the year 1527. The reſt or the Bourbon family, were, from that time, looked upon with an evil eye, and the houſe of Guiſe, and Montmorency, were careſſed by Francis. The firſt of theſe, which had for its chief Claude, Duke of Guiſe, was a branch of the houſe of Lorrain; the other, one of the moſt ancient families of France, was headed by Annas Montmorency, conſtable of France.

Towards the close of that reign, both these falling into disgrace, were banished the court; and it is said, that Francis upon his death-bed advised his son to employ neither of them, representing to him, that it was dangerous to have ministers of such abilities and interest. Notwithstanding this advice, Annas of Montmorency, and Francis Duke of Guise, were both received into favour; but a jealousy soon arose betwixt them, for the former valued himself upon his political capacity, and the latter piqued himself upon his military abilities. The Duke of Guise, who had always been popular, grew more so, by defending Mety against Charles, and taking Calais from the English. On the contrary, Montmorency was much blamed for losing the battle of St. Quintin, and he was looked upon to be principally concerned, in advising the dishonourable peace.

The Guises grew more considerable by the marriage of Francis to Mary Queen of Scots, their sister's daughter; and at length, every thing in France was directed by the Duke and the Cardinal his brother. This not only mortified Montmorency, but the two brothers of the Bourbon family; Anthony King of Navarre, and the prince of Conde, would not brook it. Anthony indeed

indeed being of an eaſy diſpoſition had nothing more in veiw than to recover his kingdom of Navarre, and in the mean time was contented with the revenue he received from Bearn; but the Prince of Conde, was ambitious, and ſo poor withal, that he could not live up to his high rank without ſome conſiderable employment. Beſides this, the admiral Coligny, an artful proud man, and his brother D' Andelot, who was of a bold enterpriſing temper, were continually inciting the Prince of Conde to aſſert the ſuperiority of his family. This was the ſituation of affairs when Francis II. who was only 16 years of age, and by reaſon of his incapacity and ill ſtate of health, wholely unfit to govern, came to the Crown.

While the heads of the Bourbon and Guiſe family contended for the regency, the Queen Mother Catherine de Medicis, by craftily fomenting their quarrel, contrived to get it into her own hands. As the Guiſes were her favourites, ſhe gave the command of the army to the Duke; and the Cardinal had the direction of the finances. The conſtable Montmorency, under the pretence that his great age wanted repoſe, was deſired to retire from court; and to get him out of the way, the Prince

of Conde was ſent ambaſſador to the Spaniſh Court. Seeing themſelves thus excluded from all ſhare of the government, it was reſolved, at a meeting held, to deliberate on what meaſures were fitteſt to be taken, that the King of Navarre ſhould, by cajoling the court, endeavour to procure their advancement. This was tried, but after being many times deceived with vain hopes, he gave it over.

Still the Prince of Conde was determined to puſh his fortune; and having no great intereſt, he, by the advice of Coligny, joined himſelf with the Hugonots; by which name all of the reformed religion in France were called. Theſe people, at this time under a ſeveie perſecution, mortally hated the Guiſes, whom they looked upon to be the authors of it, and readily embraced him for a leader. It was agreed that the Hugonots, being aſſembled ſecretly, ſome of them ſhould demand at court the free exerciſe of religion; which being refuſed, the reſt were to go inſtantly in a body, and after murdering the Guiſes, force the King to confer the regency on the Prince of Conde. A gentleman named Renaudie, took upon himſelf the execution of this deſign; but as it was deferred on the account of the Court's removal to Blais,

and

and from thence to Amboiſe, it took air; and above 1200 Hugonots were ſeized and put to death. The Prince of Conde was confined and ſentenced to die; but luckily for him, the ſudden death of Francis, in the year 1560, entirely changed the face of affairs.

## CHARLES IX,

Brother to Francis II, came to the Crown in the year 1560, aged only 11 years. The Queen mother thought herſelf ſecure of the regency, and eſpecially ſo long as ſhe could keep the houſes of Bourbon and Guiſe embroiled. In order, therefore, to prevent the ruin of the Prince of Conde's party, ſhe pretended to have no diſlike to the reformed religion, and rather encouraged it at court; but Montmorency, Guiſe, and the Marſhal St. Andre, adhered to their purpoſe of exterminating it, and the King of Navarre was brought over to their party.

There was afterwards a conference at Poiſſy, betwixt divers of both religions; and an edict was, in January 1592, publiſhed for the preſervation of the reformed religion, which was called the edict of January. This ſo incenſed the Guiſe

party, that ſome of them entered the village of Vaſſy, and having firſt diſturbed the proteſtants in the exerciſe of their religion, put threeſcore of them to death. From this time hoſtilities were committed on both ſides; but as it does not ſuit with our purpoſe to give a circumſtantial detail of the many battles and ſkirmiſhes, or of the rage and cruelty exerciſed on both ſides, we ſhall only give a brief account of the principal events in theſe civil wars.

In the firſt war in 1562, the King of Navarre died of a wound received at the ſiege of Rouen. A battle being fought near Dreux, the Prince of Conde had at firſt the advantage; but his men falling to plundering too ſoon, they were repulſed, and he was taken priſoner. In this action the Marſhal St. Andre was killed on the ſpot; and about 4000 of each party were left upon the field. The Duke of Guiſe was, ſoon after treacherouſly murdered at the ſiege of Orleans, by one Poltrot, at the inſtigation, as it was ſuppoſed, of Coligny.

In the next year a peace was made; yet, notwithſtanding the ſhort continuance of this war, it is computed that, at leaſt, 50,000 of the Hugonots were killed, and both parties had ſuffered ſo much, that the

Queen

Queen could now manage either. After the peace, the Engliſh were obliged to quit Havre de Grace, which the Hugonots, in recompence for their aſſiſtance, had put into their hands. As the Hugonots made no ſcruple of taking plate out of the churches and coining it, ſilver was, after this war, more plentiful in France, than it had ever been before

In the year 1567, the Queen regent had an interview with the Duke d'Alva, at Bayonne, in which the deſtruction of the Hugonots was ſuppoſed to be reſolved upon. This apprehenſion, with the perſecution immediately ſet on foot with great warmth againſt them, determined the Hugonots to renew hoſtilities. Annas of Montmorency being, in this ſecond war, mortally wounded, at the battle of St. Denis, he ſaid to a monk, who was impertinent in his laſt moments, "Let me alone, I have "not lived fourſcore years, without learning to die a quarter of an hour." The proteſtants, who were very inferior in number, got a great reputation by this victory; and the city of Rochelle, which, for 60 years afterwards ſerved for a retreat, declared for them.

In the year 1568, a peace was ſigned, but as neither party were ſatisfied with the conditio s,

conditions, the war broke out again in the ſame year. The prince of Conde, being killed by a muſket ſhot, at the battle of Jarnac, in the year 1569, Henry, King of Navarre, the ſon of Anthony, who ſucceeded afterwards to the French crown, was pitched upon by the proteſtants for their chief, but the admiral Coligny had, in fact, the whole direction of their affairs. The latter failed in his attempt againſt Poitiers, in defence of which the young Duke of Guiſe gave the firſt proofs of his bravery, and loſt 9000 men in the action near Moncoutour. His reputation did not however ſuffer by theſe miſcarriages, and being ſupplied with money from the Queen of England, and troops from the Elector Palatine, he ſoon after aſſembled a great army.

Upon his advancing, in the year 1570, towards Paris, a very advantageous peace for the Hugonots was concluded, the towns of Rochelle, Montauban, Cognac, and la Charitie being given up to them; but the deſign of the court in this was, that as the proteſtants could not be ſubdued by force, they might thereby be lull'd into a dangerous ſecurity.

With a view to this, they were flattered with vaſt hopes, and the admiral Coligny, now much careſſed at Court, was often

conſulted

conſulted concerning an intended expedition againſt the Spaniards in the Netherlands. A marriage was next year concluded, betwixt Henry of Navarre, and the French King's ſiſter, to the celebration of which, all the moſt conſiderable perſons amongſt the proteſtants were invited, that their throats might be more conveniently cut altogether at Paris. As the admiral was going home one night from court, he was wounded in the arm by ſome ruffians, hired by the Duke of Guiſe to ſhoot him. This was followed with an agreement, that on the 24th of Auguſt, at the ringing of bells, for the firſt prayers, in the morning, the Hugonots ſhould be all maſſacred, and the Duke de Guiſe took upon himſelf the execution of it. The admiral, confined to his bed by his wounds, was the firſt who fell a ſacrifice, and the ſlaughter continued for ſeven days with the moſt unheard-of cruelty. The example ſet at Paris, being followed in many other cities, above 30,000 proteſtants were maſſacred, and the King of Navarre, with the young prince of Conde, were compelled to abjure the reformed religion. This horrid buſineſs, which is commonly called the wedding at Paris, has been ſcandalouſly repreſented,

by

by Gabriel Naude, as a maſter-piece of policy.

Their conſternation being a little over, the war was recommenced with great animoſity by the Hugonots. On this fourth war the royal army beſieged Rochelle, but after being eight months, and loſing 12000 men before it, the Duke of Anjou, who commanded, took the opportunity of his being elected King of Poland, to raiſe the ſiege with honour, and peace was in the year 1573 again concluded.

In the next year, the war was re-kindled, and a third faction being form'd in France, who called themſelves the political party, theſe proteſted, that without any regard to religion, they only meant the good of the public, the excluſion of the Queen from the regency, and the baniſhment of the Guiſes, and all Italians from the kingdom. At the head of this party was the houſe of Montmorency, which, tho' it firſt propoſed nothing but its own aggrandiſement, had afterwards a great ſhare in the advancement of Henry to the throne. In the ſame year, while all theſe diviſions were at the height, Charles died without heirs, in the year 1574, aged 24.

HENRY

## HENRY III.

Who was already King of Poland, aſcended the throne in the year 1573, aged 23 years. Having taken poſſeſſion of the crown, he, by no means, anſwered the expectations of the people, for abandoning himſelf to idleneſs and ſenſuality, the adminiſtration was ſtill in the hands of the Queen mother, and ſome favourites. In the mean time the ſtrength of the Hugonots was greatly encreaſed by an army from Germany, under the prince of Conde, and John Caſimar, Count Palentine: the Duke of Alencon, brother to the King, came alſo over to them, and the King of Navarre made his eſcape from priſon. All theſe conſiderations made it neceſſary for the party to negociate a peace with them, upon more advantageous terms than any of the former. About the ſame time, another party, called the union, or league, was ſet on foot by the Duke of Guiſe, who, finding himſelf hated by the King, but in great eſteem among the prieſts and people, had a mind to ſet up for himſelf. He was beſides encouraged, by the contempt the King's management had brought him into; and pretending to be deſcended from Charlemain,

lemain, he inſiſted on having a better right to the crown than Henry, whoſe predeceſſor, Hugh Caput, had unjuſtly excluded his family. Theſe were the real reaſons for this league; but the pretended ones were, the defence of the catholic religion, the eſtabliſhment of Henry on the throne, and the maintenance of public liberty, and all who entered into it, took a ſolemn oath, to be in all things obedient to the heads of it. The King, who did not ſee to the bottom of this affair, hoping that the Hugonots might be more eaſily ruined, ſigned it at the aſſembly of Blois, in the year 1577, and declared himſelf its head.

A ſixth war was immediately comenced againſt the Hugonots, but notwithſtanding their affairswere in a bad ſtate, nothing conſiderably happened, and peace was concluded in the ſame year. After this peace the King returned to his luxurious way of living, to ſupport the expeuce of which, new taxes were laid on the ſubjects, which, with the inſolence of his favourites, increaſed the peoples hatred to him, and heightened their eſteem for the Duke of Guiſe. The Duke of Alencon, brother to the King, having about the ſame time taken upon himſelf the title of Lord of the Netherlands, Philip of Spain, in revenge, entered into the league.

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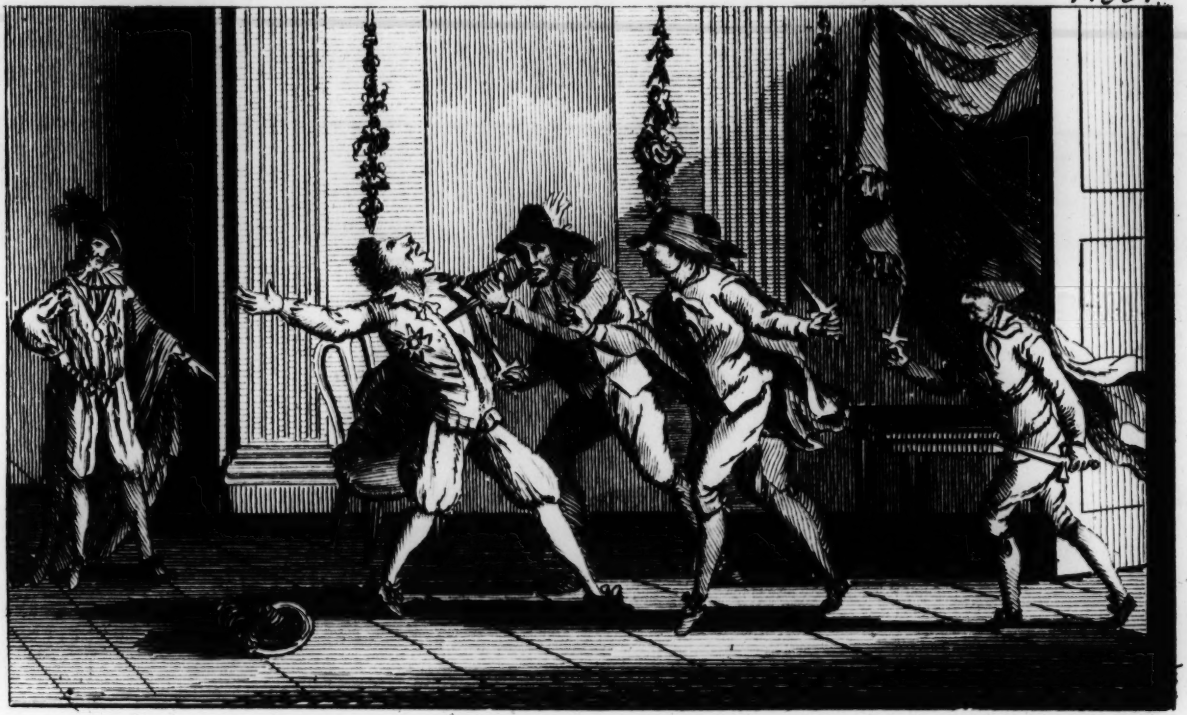

*Death of the Duke of Guise*

In 1579, the civil war again broke out, and another in the year 1585, both of them to the diſadvantage of the proteſtants, through the abilities of the Duke of Guiſe. The King thought him now ſo dangerous, that after inviting him in a friendly manner to court, both he and his brother the Cardinal were, by his Majeſty's orders, and in a manner under his eye, baſely aſſaſſinated in 1588. The leaguers, upon this, declared that Henry had forfeited his crown, and was an enemy to religion. This obliged him to throw himſelf into the arms of the proteſtants; but while he was beſieging Paris, where the leaguers had their greateſt force, he was in his turn aſſaſſinated by one Clement, a young enthuſiaſtic Monk, in 1589. In Henry III. ended the line of Valois.

*Remarkable Occurrences during the Reign of the Race of Valois, &c.*

1060 Cruſades came into vogue about this period.

1244 Jeruſalem ſacked and taken by the Choraſmains.

1270 The Sicilian maſſacre.

1347 The battle of Creſſy.

1356 The battle of Poitiers.

1415 The battle of Agincourt.

1431 The maid of Orleans burnt for witchcraft.

1525 Francis, King of France, made a priſoner in Spain.

1459 One thouſand two hundred Hugonots ſeized and maſſacred.

1570 Upwards of 30,000 proteſtants maſſacred in France.

1588 The Duke of Guiſe and his brother murdered.

## THE BOURBON LINE.

### HENRY IV.

It was a happy circumſtance for France that its throne was now filled by Henry IV. who well knew how to govern it, and to repair all its misfortunes. He was poſſeſſed of a great ſoul, a fine genius, an admirable judgment, formed by a maſculine and plain education; uſed to the fatigues of war, tried by misfortunes, which teach kings to know that they are men; of the age of thirty-ſix, when the mind and body are at their higheſt prime; full of frankneſs and readineſs of ſpeech, of generoſity to his friends, and affections to his people; too ſuſceptible of the weakneſſes

neſſes of love, but preferring glory and public good to his pleaſures; a moderate calviniſt without obſtinacy, diſpoſed to ſupport the religion of the kingdom, and embrace the ſame, when he ſhould be convinced that it was the true one. However, the greater part of France refuſed to acknowledge him. Vendoſme, the chief branch of the houſe of Bourbon, a deſcendant from Robert, couſin to Clement V. ſon of St. Lewis, though he was related to the late king only in the twenty-ſecond degree, aſſured himſelf of the crown. There was nothing againſt Henry but his religion, an almoſt inſurmountable barrier in a time of fanaticiſm and revolt. The Duke of Epernon, and other lords and gentlemen of the army, retired at once, under pretence that their conſciences would not permit them to ſerve an heretical prince. Several remained faithful, on condition that it ſhould be carried by the judgment of a council. The Duke of Mayenne, however, whether from moderation or policy, would not give him the title of King; but gave it to the old Cardinal of Bourbon, whom they afterwards proclaimed under the name of Charles X.

At the beginning of the ſiege of Paris, the royal army was 30,000 ſtrong; but it every day very conſiderably diminiſhed. Frequent deſertions, and the retreat of a crowd of officers who demanded their diſmiſſion; the want of money, the ſcruples of the Catholics, the hatred of the Hugonots, all contributed to weaken them. The King therefore raiſed the ſiege, and retired towards Dieppe, having no more left than five or ſix thouſand men. It was deliberated in council, whether he ſhould go into England or not, ſo much had the leaguers the ſuperiority. Mayenne purſued him with an army three or four times more numerous than his own, and conſidered the King's cauſe as totally loſt; but Henry was not eaſily to be terrified. The battle of Arques confounded the hopes of the rebels, in which they were defeated by the King's little army. The loſs of this battle was attributed to Mayenne, who was too ſlow in his operations, loaded by the great weight of his own body, and who loſt too much time in bed and at table.

The King, after this victory, having received a reinforcement of 4000 Engliſh, he carried terror to the gates of Paris, where a falſe report of his defeat had been ſpread.

ſpread. He took five boroughs ſword in hand; and, if cannon had not timely arrived at Paris, the city would have been ravaged; the Dukes of Mayenne and Namours re-entered the city juſt in time to ſave it.

Philip II. King of Spain, demanded the title of Protector of France, that he might diſmember it, to pleaſe his own ambition. This artful prince, being willing to be maſter of the league, gave them moderate ſuccours, by which he hoped to keep them always in dependence; but the Duke of Mayenne reſolved not to receive him for a maſter, and baffled his projects, though at the ſame time he made uſe of his aſſiſtance.

Mayenne then marched againſt the King, who beſieged Dreux and Normandy, and who immediately raiſed the ſiege in order to fight him; when, notwithſtanding the Duke's advantage and number, he was again defeated. This famous battle did great honour to the bravery and ſkill of Henry, and his clemency to the vanquiſhed raiſed the glory of his triumph: "Save the French!" cried he, as he purſued thoſe who fled. Theſe little anecdotes ſerve to delineate this great

man, whoſe manners gained him the poſſeſſion of all hearts.

Henry, after ſome interval, cauſed by the want of money, formed the blockade of Paris. The Duke of Namours, brother to the Duke of Mayenne, commanded there in quality of governor, who provided for every thing which might happen, with prudence and ſingular activity. There were encloſed in Paris 220,000 people; and three months blockade having exhauſted their proviſions, the famine became intolerable: they were already reduced to grind the bones of the dead to make them bread. The religious, who firſt inſpired the ardour of martyrdom, were not the moſt careleſs about life: a viſit made in the convents developed their intereſted contrivances; for an abundance of proviſions were found among the Capuchins. This diſcovery afforded a little reſource; but Paris would not have eſcaped Henry's force, if, through an exceſs of goodneſs, he had not ſuffered thoſe who were uſeleſs to retire, and ordered his own officers and ſoldiers to let refreſhments enter for their friends. This conduct was undoubtedly imprudent; but it was an imprudence well worthy of admiration.

Mean

Mean time, neceſſity rendered the Pariſians more tractable; and they offered to ſubmit, provided the King would renounce calviniſm. Believing himſelf ſure of ſucceſs, he was willing to impoſe conditions himſelf; but an unforeſeen event made him loſe the fruit of ſo much labour. Philip II. who feared the end of theſe troubles, and who flattered himſelf with gaining the crown of France, had ordered the Duke of Parma, Governor of the Low Countries, to march to the ſuccour of Paris. This famous general approached with a powerful army, and the deliverance of Paris was the end of his expedition.

This thunderbolt greatly diſcouraged the King's troops, who were in want of money, clothes, and nouriſhment. The King himſelf was in want of a dinner, going to eat every day in the tent of his ſuperintendant of the finances, whoſe table was not very well ſerved. After the departure of the Duke of Parma, who very ſoon retired into the Low Countries, war continued in France with the ſame animoſity, without producing any thing memorable.

Queen Elizabeth, and the proteſtant princes of Germany, having ſent Henry a reinforcement of troops, he undertook the

the ſiege of Rouen, one of the bulwarks of the league. It was ſaid of the Pariſians, that they knew better how to faſt than to fight; but the contrary might be ſaid of Rouen. Villas Brancas, ſtrongly ſeconded by the garriſon and citizens, defended himſelf with a valour, of which there are few examples in hiſtory. Henry often expoſed himſelf as an officer of fortune, and the attack and defence were equally lively; but the rebels would have been at laſt overpowered, if the Duke of Parma had not come once more to their aſſiſtance. The King marched with part of the army to give him battle, and was wounded in an action, wherein, at the head of a few horſe, he aſſaulted an army of 30,000 men. His enemies might have taken him, had they purſued him; but the Duke of Parma, ſuppoſing that he was ſupported by all his cavalry, loſt this deciſive opportunity. Henry was conſtrained to raiſe the ſiege of Rouen; but misfortunes ſerved only the more eagerly to excite his courage. He purſued the Duke of Parma, who was engaged in the county of Caux. This general, in want of proviſions, ſcarcely recovered from a diſorder which was occaſioned by a wound, found himſelf, in his turn, in extreme danger:

danger; there were no means of his escaping but by passing the Seine at Caudebec, which was very wide, and the undertaking appeared impossible. The King, at the same time, did not contrive to put any obstacle in his way; for the Duke found a bridge of boats ready, of which he had not the least expectation. The Duke's forces passed the bridge, destroyed it, and made their retreat unmolested to Paris.

There were at that time two factions in Paris: one considerably fallen, who were devoted to the Spaniards, and irritated against Mayenne; the other, the political party, composed of the magistrates and the principal citizens. These demanded only of Henry his submissions to the church; but the other party were for electing a new King, and the Spaniards, on their side, demanded the abolishment of the salique law, and that the infanta of Spain should be declared Queen of France.

Never had Henry been in such cruel perplexities; for a King, elected by the States, would most likely have drawn after him all the Catholics, and those few of that religion, who were of his party, were much displeased at his perseverance in

in ſo deteſtable a ſect. Hence he had no reſource left, but to wage eternal war, or to change his religion.

The wiſeſt of the Hugonots, as well as the moſt moderate among the proteſtant miniſters, endeavoured to perſuade Henry of the neceſſity of his embracing the Catholic principles, which he at laſt promiſed to conform to. The people of that religion then attached themſelves to his perſon, and propoſed conferences to thoſe of Paris; but theſe conferences produced little effect.

In the midſt of theſe agitations, the parliament, aſſuming its ancient vigour, publiſhed a decree for the ſupport of the fundamental laws of the kingdom, and to prevent thoſe, who, under pretence of religion, were for transferring the crown into the hands of a ſtranger. The King of Spain was diſſatisfied with this proclamation, and ſtill more by the converſion of Henry, who, after one or two days conference with the biſhops, made his abjuration at St. Dennis, before the archbiſhop of Bourges, and received from him abſolution from all cenſures. This was the moſt happy event that could be deſired; but the legate, inſtead of laying his hands on him, forbid, under pain of excom-

communication, any one to aſſiſt at the ceremony. The Pariſians, however, ran in crowds, thereby clearly proving, that their diſlike to the religion of the King extended not to his perſon; but there were ſome, who were fanatics through ſyſtem, and who were not ſo eaſily reconciled as the reſt of the people. Henry read his recantation in the year 1593. This year, Henry ran the riſk of being aſſaſſinated, by a young ſailor named Barriere. Being taken in the attempt, and put to the queſtion, he confeſſed, that a capuchin, a jeſuit, a curate of Paris, and another prieſt whom he mentioned, had put him upon this infamous attempt. Indeed, aſſaſſinations and murders ſeem to have been common with the Romiſh clergy.

The French, notwithſtanding the obſtacles which party rage threw in the way, by degrees returned to their duty, and the league loſt its power and credit. As ſoon as reflection began to ſucceed the fury of party rage, Meaux, Pontoiſe, Orleans, Bourges, and Lyons ſubmitted; when the Duke of Mayenne quitted Paris, not thinking himſelf in ſafety there. He had made the Count de Briſac governor, who, preferring the duty of a ſubject to

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all other engagements, introduced the King without tumult or oppoſition. The Spaniards were reduced to capitulate, and ſuffered to leave the place with the honours of war. The legate obſtinately perſiſted not to ſee the King, but obtained permiſſion to retire, taking with him the curate of Aubri, and the jeſuit Verade, the two people whom Barriere had accuſed as his accomplices in the intended aſſaſſination.

Nothing was of more conſequence than to re-eſtabliſh the parliament in its former glory, and to confirm monarchy by the authority of laws. The faithful magiſtrates returned to the capital, and were reeſtabliſhed, on condition that they ſhould remain on the ſpot. From this time, the ancient ſpirit of patriotiſm again ſhone forth in the parliament: it cancelled all acts, decrees, and oaths, which had been made ſince 1588, and which were found prejudicial to the authority of the King, and the laws of the kingdom, as having been extorted by force. It revoked the power given to the Duke of Mayenne, and annulled the acts of the laſt aſſembly at Paris, under the name of the States General. Every thing that fanaticiſm had inſpired, ſeemed condemned to oblivion.

livion. If any thing be capable of uniting the hearts of a people, it muſt be a conduct like that of Henry's.

When Henry was entering into Paris, ſome officers had ſtopped the baggage of La Noue, for debts that his father had contracted in the ſervice of the ſtate. This gentleman, truly worthy of conſideration, complained of this violence. Henry publicly replied, "La Noue muſt pay his debts, I regularly pay mine." The King, then taking him aſide, gave him jewels to redeem the baggage that had been ſeized. Theſe marks of diſintereſted generoſity, however, were too weak in themſelves to attract the principal lords of the league, who ſet their ſubmiſſion at the higheſt price, proving by ſuch conduct, that religion was the leaſt motive of their rebellion. Villiers ſurrendered Rouen, exacting for it prodigious ſums, beſides the appointment of Admiral, and the government of ſeveral places. According to the memoirs of Sully, it coſt thirty-two millions to ſatisfy the avarice of three rapacious men. Any other prince would have eluded the promiſes which neceſſity had extorted from him; but Henry faithfully acquitted his, when he was in a condition

dition of violating them with impunity.

The atrocious crimes, which proceed from the prejudices of religion, are not eaſily effaced, and hence the ſuperſtitious ſpirit of the league ſtill ſubſiſted. The attempt projected by Barriere was nearly executed by John Chattel, the ſon of a tradeſman at Paris, a young man, ſuſceptible of all the impreſſions of fanaticiſm. Having ſlidden into the chamber among a crowd which ſurrounded the King, he endeavoured to give him a ſtroke with a dagger in the throat; but happily for Henry, who was ſtooping to receive the homage of a lord, the ſtroke only wounded his lip, and broke a tooth. The aſſaſſin was inſtantly ſeized, when he confeſſed, that knowing himſelf to be guilty of great ſins, he thought to avoid hell by this action, which he looked on as juſt and meritorious; becauſe the King was not reconciled to the church, and had been reputed a tyrant; that he had heard it determined on in ſeveral places, eſpecially in the houſe of the Jeſuits, where it was made a part of their ſtudies. He added, that theſe fathers had often introduced him into a chamber of meditations, full of frightful figures

gures of hell. The depoſitions of John Chattel precipitated the diſgrace of the Jeſuits, and the parliament of Paris baniſhed them as corruptors of youth, diſturbers of the public repoſe, and enemies to the King and ſtate. Guignard, librarian to the college, was hanged for having preſerved the ſeditious writings, of which he was the author.

The Duke of Mayenne was the moſt dangerous and the moſt culpable among the ſmall number of lords, who perſiſted in the rebellion. The King attacked him in his government of Burgundy, where he found a Spaniſh army, under the orders of the conſtable of Caſtile. Henry putting himſelf at the head of three hundred horſe, in order to reconnoitre the enemy, he ſuddenly met the whole army. "Follow me, (ſaid Henry to his men) and do as you ſee me do;" and then briſkly began the attack. Never had Henry run ſo much riſk, or ſhewn ſo much valour, as on this day. The Spaniſh general was unwilling to hazard a battle; and being perſuaded, as was formerly the Duke of Parma, that the King would not expoſe himſelf in this manner without having a larger party of his troops at hand, he precipitately retired, vanquiſh-

ed by an handful of his enemies. On this occaſion Henry ſaid, that he had formerly fought for victory, but here he fought for life. Bravery and good fortune here performed wonders.

Henry then granted a truce to the Duke of Mayenne, and peace was concluded the following year. This illuſtrious chief of the party, whom they were not willing to puſh to the laſt extremity, obtained conditions more advantageous than he could have expected. The goodneſs and policy of the King brought him back to his duty, he loaded him with careſſes, and the Duke declared, that it was then only his ſovereign had conquered him.

At length, Henry declared war againſt Philip, the principal actor in theſe civil troubles; but this war was the renewal of misfortunes. The Spaniards took Cambray, and, in 1596, made more important conqueſts, taking Calais and Ardres. It was during this unſucceſsful war, that Henry wrote the following ſingular letter to Sully: "I am very near my enemies, and have not a horſe on which I can fight; my ſhirts are all torn to pieces, my coat is out at the elbows, and for theſe few days paſt I have dined, ſometimes with one, and ſometimes with another,

another, my purveyors not being able to furniſh my table."

The bad adminiſtration of the finances rendered Henry's beſt ſchemes fruitleſs; he therefore gave this important poſt to the famous Sully, when the face of every thing was immediately changed. Extortions ceaſed, the avarice of the noblemen and financier were reſtrained, order was re-eſtabliſhed throughout, and the people's money carried directly to the treaſury, and conſecrated to public uſe; the taxes were levied with wiſdom, and the debts faithfully acquitted; a juſt œconomy enriched the prince and kingdom; and, in a word, during the interval of fifteen years, the time Sully was miniſter, notwithſtanding the conſiderable diminution of all kinds of taxes, and the payment of debts, the revenues of the crown encreaſed four millions. Such were the glorious conſequences of having a wiſe King, and an able and faithful miniſter.

In 1598, Henry publiſhed the famous edict of Nantes, which ſecured to his old friends the proteſtants the free exerciſe of their religion; and the next year, his treaty of Verviens with the King of Spain finiſhed the eſtabliſhment of the tranquil-

lity of his kingdom. Nothing could be more honourable to France than this treaty; for the Spaniards gave back all they had taken in Picardy, and Henry returned nothing. Soon after died the King of Spain, Philip II. whoſe ambition had put all Europe in agitation, without gaining any advantage to himſelf. Holland drew itſelf from his dominion, France delivered itſelf from his injuſtice, and five thouſand five hundred millions of gold, diſſipated in fruitleſs projects, proved that he was the moſt powerful monarch in Europe, but not the greateſt King. His profeſſed zeal againſt proteſtantiſm did not hinder him from animating the proteſtants againſt the Catholics, when it was agreeable to his intereſt ſo to do.

Though truth will not permit us to conceal the faults of great men, yet we ought to make a good uſe of their faults, by drawing from them uſeful leſſons for human life. Though Henry triumphed over his enemies, yet he was a ſlave to love. Gabriella of Eſtree, the Ducheſs of Beaufort, held him in ſuch captivity, that it is ſaid he had thoughts of making her his queen. He had a long time lived ſeparate from his wife, Margaret of Valois,

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and a mutual antipathy, which could never be conquered, kept them ſeparate. They each deſired a divorce, and applied to Rome for that purpoſe. The motive on which they founded their pretences was, that their marriage had been forced, and that they had not obtained neceſſary diſpenſations. In the mean time, a ſudden death ſnatched away the lovely Gabriella, and Henry, ſoon after, fell deſperately in love with Madam d'Etrangues, daughter of a miſtreſs of Charles IX. She took pains to encreaſe his paſſion, and then declared, that ſhe would never ſatisfy it without a promiſe of marriage. The promiſe was ſigned, Henry ſhewed it to Sully, and aſked his advice. This honeſt miniſter took the paper, and tore it into pieces without making any reply. "How! (cried the King enraged) I believe you are mad!" Sully coldly anſwered, "It is true, Sire, I am mad, and I ſhould be content to be outrageouſly ſo, could I be the only madman in France." Sully made no doubt of his approaching diſgrace; but, on the contrary, ſome days afterwards, he was made grand-maſter of the artillery. His zeal was ſtill better recompenſed by the reſolution which the King took of concluding a marriage more worthy

worthy of him. The commiſſaries of the Pope having pronounced the ſentence of divorce, he married Mary of Medicis, by whom he had Lewis XIII.

Henry then chaſtiſed the Duke of Savoy, who had taken advantage of the late troubles in his kingdom; and applied himſelf with wonderful attention and ſucceſs (aſſiſted in all his undertakings by his miniſter, the great Sully) to cultivate the happineſs of his people, by encouraging manufactures, particularly that of ſilk, the benefit of which France feels at this day.

We are now arrived at the moſt glorious æra of the reign of Henry IV. The whole kingdom reaped, in the boſom of peace, the fruits of a government full of wiſdom, juſtice, and frugality. Arts, commerce, and agriculture, inſenſibly made amends for all former misfortunes Three hundred and thirty millions of debt did not frighten the zeal of the ſuperintendant Sully, whoſe indefatigable genius found reſources for every thing. In this period, a French colony eſtabliſhed itſelf in Canada; and the King, by the good management of his finances, was enabled to raiſe ſuperb edifices: the gallery of the Louvre, and the Pontneuf, are his works.

However,

However, amidſt all his works, equally noble and uſeful, his unhappy weakneſs for women drew on him new troubles. Madam Etrangues, whom he had made Marchioneſs of Verneuil, preſerved too much empire over his heart. Queen Maria of Medicis was cruelly wounded by it, and gave herſelf up to the moſt poignant grief. This great prince, like many others, was a dupe to his paſſions. D'Etrangues the father, and the Marchioneſs de Verneuil, carried their ingratitude ſo far as to conſpire againſt him, endeavouring to make him perform the promiſe of marriage he had the imprudence to give. They were proſecuted, condemned, and obtained mercy. On the other ſide, the Duke of Bouillon, though indebted to Henry for his marriage with the heireſs of Sedan, took every meaſure in his power to raiſe an inſurrection among the Hugonots. The King, gaining nothing by fair means, took the reſolution of employing force. He ſet out with his troops, the Duke humbled himſelf, and gave up Sedan, which was almoſt immediately reſtored to him.

The republic of Venice having a quarrel with Paul V. furniſhed Henry with a new occaſion for glory. This Pope, being

ing too zealous for eccleſiaſtical immunities, which he was willing to ſupport in their ancient extenſion, the Venetians had forbidden the building of monaſteries, and applying the eſtates of the people to the uſe of the church, without the permiſſion of the Senate; they even arreſted a canon and an abbot, who were guilty of enormous crimes. Paul looked on theſe acts of juſt authority as attempts againſt God and the church; but his threats and his orders were diſregarded, and the intereſt of the citizens prevailed over the pretenſions of the court of Rome. The Pope grew furious, threw out thunders and excommunications againſt the Doge and the Senate, and pronounced a general interdiction on the republic. The Jeſuits and the Capuchins thought the Venetians ought to ſubmit; but the former, who were more feared than the latter, were baniſhed Venice. Every thing ſeemed to threaten a war: the Pope prepared to execute the cenſures he had denounced, and the Venetians to ſupport the rights of their ſovereignty. Henry, with a true ſpirit of chriſtianity, offered to mediate between them. The court of France had, for a long time, loſt its credit at Rome, where Spain had been the favourite

favourite power. However, Henry had the glory of being choſen mediator, and of terminating the diſpute. Paul could not obtain the re-eſtabliſhment of the Jeſuits, which was one of the objects he had moſt at heart; they were not recalled till near fifty years afterwards, and they ſtill feel at Venice the effects of their former diſgrace.

The title of peace-maker, more worthy of a great prince than that of conqueror, was reſerved for the King of France, who managed the firſt treaty between Spain and the United Provinces. A furious war, which had laſted forty years, ſeemed to have rendered them irreconcilable. On one ſide, Maurice, the Prince of Orange, endeavoured to continue it for his own particular intereſt, while the wiſe Barnevelt deſired, for the good of his country, to put an end to it. On the other ſide, the Spaniards, always treating the Hollanders as rebels, were far from ſatisfying them. The Preſident Jeannin, Ambaſſador in Holland, fulfilled the beneficent views of Henry. By a wonderful negociation, he managed their different diſpoſitions with ſo much addreſs, that all obſtacles diſappeared. Philip III. concluded with the

ſtates

ſtates a truce of twelve years, acknowledging them free provinces, over which he claimed no authority.

We muſt not here omit mentioning an anecdote of theſe redoubtable republicans, which will ſerve as a picture of theſe now, *moſt high and mighty lords* in the year 1608. When the Ambaſſadors of Spain went to the Hague to conclude the terms of peace, they met the deputies of the ſtate ſitting on the graſs, and eating their dinner. Every one had brought his own proviſions, which conſiſted of bread, cheeſe, and beer. At this ſight the Spaniards were ſurprized and aſtoniſhed, exclaiming, "Behold the people who cannot be conquered, and with whom it is then neceſſary we ſhould make peace."

Nothing was now wanting to complete the happineſs and glory of the King, but the ſurmounting the moſt dangerous of all paſſions. Among the women whom he loved was Catharine of Rohan. When he made her a declaration of his paſſion, ſhe replied, "I am too poor to be your wife, and of too good a family to be your miſtreſs." The young Prince of Condé was deſirous of marrying the daughter of the Marſhal of Montmorency; and the charms of that princeſs had;

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had, at the ſame time, ſtruck Henry in the moſt lively manner. He made no attempt to diſſemble his inclinations, and thereby drew on himſelf freſh troubles. All at once, the firſt Prince of the blood diſappeared, and carried his wife with him to Bruſſels, where the court of Spain was not wanting in offering him every aſſiſtance. The King was extremely afflicted at this evaſion; and the more occaſion he had to reproach himſelf for his licentious love, the more he endeavoured to make amends for it by his care in government, and his great enterprizes. He ſoon after carried the war into Germany. The Houſe of Auſtria diſputed with thoſe of Brandenbourg and Newbourg, the ſucceſſion of Cleves and Juliers. In ſupporting the rights of his allies, he took occaſion to lower the Auſtrian power, and reſtrain it within juſt limits; and this was undoubtedly the object of his armament.

Henry had, perhaps, conceived a project, which is attributed to him, of forming, out of the fifteen European powers, a body called the Chriſtian Republic, which ſhould have his laws, his counſel, his arms, and who ſhould unite together to maintain an equilibrium againſt thoſe

who ſhould attempt to break it: an admirable project in ſpeculation, but of which there is not one trace remaining, and the execution of which appeared too chimerical for ſo enlightened a prince to flatter himſelf with bringing to any concluſion.

Meaſures were now all concerted, forty millions were deſtined for this war, a large army of well diſciplined troops, vaſt proviſions, reſpectable alliances, with numberleſs reſources, and a prudent and victorious King at the head of the whole. Henry, therefore, preſſed the departure with extreme impatience. It is ſaid, that forebodings, and very ſenſible uneaſineſſes that he felt, plainly indicated ſome fatal ſtroke. Several hiſtorians ſpeak of predictions and preſages, which appear ſo marvellous, that they ſufficiently deſtroy their own credit. However, it is too certain, that this illuſtrious King was aſſaſſinated in the midſt of his people.

Ravilliac had, for a long time, contrived the perpetration of this horrid deed. He ſeized the opportunity, when Henry's coach was ſtopped, by being entangled with ſome chariots, and plunged his dagger into his breaſt. This villain, who was born at Angouleme, had been a noviciate at the Houſe of the Feullans at Paris,

and

and was inſpired, like John Chattel, with the fanaticiſm of the league. The name of Hugonot alone made him tremble, and he hoped to extirpate his crime by martyrdom, in murdering a hero, whoſe religion ſome madmen ſuſpected, and which he thus effected in the year 1610; but he conſtantly denied having any accomplices. This was at leaſt the fifth conſpiracy againſt the life of Henry. Two dominicans of Flanders, and a capuchin brother of Milan, had come expreſs to kill him, and had been puniſhed with death. Over ſuch deeds we ſhould caſt a veil, to hide them from the knowledge of mankind, were they not neceſſary to inſpire us with abhorrence of the frenzy of falſe zeal, and to make us the more admire the true maxims of chriſtian charity.

Henry IV. to extreme freedom, united the beſt directed policy; to the moſt exalted ſentiments, the moſt charming ſimplicity of manners; and to the courage of a ſoldier, an inexhauſtible fund of humanity. Every thing in him ſeemed the expreſſion of an amiable ſoul. He often converſed freely with his ſoldiers and the people, in ſuch a manner as ſtill to acquire freſh reſpect. Sometimes, ſitting among his guards, he would eat a piece of

black bread, in order to teach his troops patience; ſometimes he would comfort the peaſants for the miſeries that were brought on them by the league, by declaring that he would ſhare them with him, his greateſt ambition being to make his ſubjects happy.

The Duke of Savoy one day aſked him, at what he valued the revenues of France. "It is worth what I pleaſe (ſaid he to him) yes, what I pleaſe; becauſe that, having the hearts of my people, I can do what I will. If God give me life, the time ſhall come, when there ſhall not be a labourer in my kingdom, who ſhall not have it in his power to have a fowl in his pot; and, if ſo, I ſhall ſtill continue to be able to ſupport my ſoldiers, in ſubjecting thoſe to reaſon, who would deprive me of my authority."

Some peaſants houſes having been pillaged in Champagne, he was told of it, and immediately ſent for the captains, who were at Paris, ſaying to them in a ſevere tone, "Look after them diligently, and keep them in order: you will perhaps aſk me what I mean. If they ruin my people, who will nouriſh me? Who will ſupport the public charges? Who will pay your penſions? Gentlemen, as God lives,

lives, to take from my ſubjects, is taking from me!" He was, however, a friend to his officers, as well as the father of his people.

The Spaniſh Ambaſſador one day teſtified ſome ſurprize at ſeeing him ſurrounded by a crowd of gentlemen. "If you had ſeen me in the day of battle (ſaid he to him) you would have ſeen them preſs about me ſtill more."

His goodneſs did not degenerate into a weak compliance; for he knew how to refuſe on proper occaſions, and would make them ſee the juſtice of the refuſal. A man of rank once implored mercy for his nephew, who had been guilty of murder. His reply was that of a good prince, who was deſirous of pardoning, but who could not excuſe himſelf from puniſhing where it was neceſſary. "I am very ſorry (ſaid he) that I cannot grant what you aſk: it becomes you to be the uncle, but me to be the King. I excuſe your requeſt, do you excuſe my refuſal."

If he were ſometimes prodigal to ill-diſpoſed noblemen, and recompenſed leſs generouſly the ſervices of his faithful captains; if he eſtabliſhed a kind of impoſition, which perpetuated in families, thoſe places, which ought to have been the re-

ward of merit; if he ſuffered many abuſes to ſubſiſt; if he did not do all the good, which might have been done in other times, it was leſs his fault than that of particular circumſtances. Every thing was to be reformed, every thing was to be renewed; but he conquered and pacified his kingdom, he ſtifled the league and religious wars, he re-eſtabliſhed order in his finances, made himſelf beloved by France, and reſpected by foreign powers; in ſhort, he reigned glorioufly, in ſpite of many obſtacles, many diſorders, and many enemies. One of the greateſt objects of his policy, conformable to the principles of Sully, was the enlivening the provinces by agriculture, the true ſource of riches. An enemy to luxury, which has always more inconveniencies than advantages attending it in a vaſt monarchy, he diſcouraged it by his example and diſcourſes. He perſuaded noblemen to retire to their eſtates, teaching them, that the beſt dependance they had was from good management. The clergy having made him remonſtrances in 1598, on various abuſes, eſpecially in the nomination of benefices, he replied, "I find the abuſe real, I find it eſtabliſhed, I hope to reform it, and put the church again into

into a flouriſhing ſtate; but do you, on your ſide, contribute a little towards it. Set good examples, that the people may be induced to follow them; and that you going before, they may be turned to the right way. You have exhorted me to my duty, I will exhort you to yours." Unfortunately, he did not always find in the eccleſiaſtics that love for virtue, which eſtabliſhes itſelf better by example than words.

## LEWIS XIII.

The report of the aſſaſſination of Henry having reached the Louvre, the Queen in tears left her cloſet, and meeting with the Chancellor de Selles, told him the King was dead. "Madam, (replied he, without taking any notice of her emotion) your Majeſty muſt excuſe me, kings never die in France." They diſſembled this misfortune, in order to take neceſſary meaſures; for Lewis XIII. was then only nine years old, and no regency appointed.

The Duke of Epernon, one of the noblemen who had been the moſt turbulent under the late reign, ran to the parliament, reſolving to nominate Mary of Medicis,

dicis. He ſeated himſelf on the bench by his peers, and putting his hand on his ſword, "It is as yet in the ſcabbard, (ſaid he) but it will ſoon unſheath itſelf, if you do not in an inſtant grant the Queen's mother a title, which is her due by the laws of nature and juſtice." The circumſtance would not admit of delay; the threats of the Duke, who was as powerful as haughty, made great impreſſion on the magiſtrates, and the Queen was immediately proclaimed regent.

A new form of government now ſprung up, which ſeemed to foretel the decay of the kingdom. The Queen was governed by the Florentine Concini, and ſtill more by his wife Eleanor Gelagai, who were entirely taken up with making their own fortunes, and had no other regard for France than to enrich themſelves with its ſpoils. The council was a confuſed aſſembly, where no ſalutary meaſures could be reſolved on. They abandoned the great project of Henry IV. who had it at heart to revenge himſelf of the court of Spain, and even ſhewed the utmoſt deſire to reconcile themſelves to that court. It was in vain that Sully endeavoured to ſupport the honour of the nation; for a treaty, which had been made with the Duke of Savoy,

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to assist him in conquering the Milanese, was shamefully broken, and that prince obliged to ask pardon of Philip III.

The greatest man who then belonged to the state, the Duke of Sully, ever detestable to the courtiers and financiers, whose injustice he had brought to light, and whose murmurs he had contemned, too firm to change his views and sentiments, in order to conform to the new court, in a short time lost all his credit, gave up his place, and retired. Being recalled some years afterwards, when they had need of his advice, his dress and his manners, which were entirely different from the mode, were turned into ridicule by the young courtiers. "This is unworthy treatment, Sire, (said he to the King) when your father did me the honour of consulting me, he previously sent away all the buffoons and coxcombs of the court." This great statesman died, in 1641, in his retirement.

This, among many other similar resignations, was an evil presage for the state; for now acknowledged merit sunk under the weight of prejudice and intrigue. In the same degree as government grew weak and degenerate, faction and discontent became audacious. The spirit of rebellion,

lion, which Henry with difficulty reſtrained, was kindled even in the heart of the court.

Four civil wars broke out under this reign, through the diſcontent of the princes and nobles. Concini, the Florentine favourite, offered to raiſe, at his own expence, an army of ſeven thouſand men; he who formerly had not ſufficient to pay a domeſtic. His fortune ſufficiently juſtified the cries of the people; but he was not able to ſupport himſelf againſt ſo many ſtorms as were now gathering round him. The fall of this Italian was as ſtrange as his elevation; for though princes had not been able to overthrow him; yet the young Luines brought about that event. This gentleman, who was born in Comtat, had been page to Henry IV. and had inſinuated himſelf into the good graces of Lewis by diſciplining birds of prey. His favour daily encreaſing, and being maſter of the confidence of the King, whoſe weak ſoul always ſuffered him to be governed, he ſuggeſted to Lewis the hint of withdrawing himſelf from the tutorage of a mother, who reigned under his name; and perſuaded him to begin, by calling the Italian favourite to an account, who exerciſed all the authority of

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the Queen. Vitri, Captain of the body guard, was ſent to arreſt him, with orders to kill him, if he reſiſted. They took care to interpret this order in ſuch a manner, that Concini did not eſcape death: he was ſhot by a piſtol in entering the Louvre. Vitri immediately cried out, "Long live the King!" Lewis appeared at the window, and approved the deed; and the Captain of the guards was honoured with the ſtaff of Marſhal of France. It was an abaſement of theſe great places to beſtow them in ſuch a manner.

As ſoon as Concinci was dead, the Queen-mother was made priſoner in the Louvre, and afterwards removed to Blois. Her ſon now ſhewed as much cruelty as he had formerly ſubmiſſion. Concini's wife ought to have been ſent back into Italy; for there was no reaſon for purſuing her, and humanity ſeemed to ſpeak in her favour. However, the parliament was ordered to proſecute her, and ſorcery and magic were the principal crimes laid to her charge. She and her huſband had, in reality, drawn together a number of thoſe impoſtors, who, under the names of aſtrologers and diviners, abuſed the credulity of the great.

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Being interrogated by the commiſſary of parliament, what charms ſhe had made uſe of to faſcinate the Queen-mother, ſhe replied, "The aſcendency which a ſuperior ſoul muſt always have over a weak one." She ſaid the Queen had ſo little underſtanding, that there was no occaſion for ſorcery, in order to govern her. The parliament declared her criminal of an offence to majeſty, human and divine. Without ſpecifying the nature of the laſt crime, ſhe was burnt as one whom they believed a ſorcereſs. A great deal of riches, accummulated by ſelling pardons, made, without doubt, the principal fault for which ſhe died, and the riches of her and her huſband indiſputably haſtened her end. The King beſtowed the ſpoil on his favourite Luines, who thus at once became one of the richeſt noblemen in the kingdom.

The fierce Duke of Epernon conſpired with the Queen-mother, who fled from Blois, and followed him to Angouleme. They wrote letters to the King full of ſubmiſſion, at the ſame time that they were raiſing troops againſt him. The war ended in a diſhonourable accommodation: they gave the Queen the government of Anjou, inſtead of that of Normandy.

mandy. The Duke of Epernon, though guilty of an offence againſt his majeſty, preſerved all his places, and might be ſaid, in ſome degree, to triumph over his ſovereign.

The fortune of Luines freed itſelf from all obſtacles. He was already a duke, a peer, and a marſhal of France, and it was not at all doubted, but he would obtain the place of conſtable, vacated by the death of Henry of Montmorency. The Duke of Mayenne had ſaid, with great truth, that it would be very aſtoniſhing to ſee a man made conſtable, who did not know the weight of a ſword. The quality of the favourite ſupplied all deficiency, and Luines very ſoon obtained the place of conſtable.

The malconts from all parts crowded to Mary de Medicis, who held her court at Angiers, and refuſed to return to Paris. The mother and ſon took up arms againſt each other, till a new treaty ſeemed to reſtore tranquillity. This was the work of the Biſhop of Lucon, the celebrated Richlieu, whoſe fortune was rapidly advancing. Far from regulating his conduct by the court, or the opinion of his dioceſe, after the fall of Concini, he had affected, in his retreat, to write

books of devotion, while he was waiting an opportunity of rebelling. The Queen-mother having occaſion for him, he had made himſelf maſter of her council, through the ſtrength of his genius and policy. It was thought that he held a ſecret correſpondence with Luines, with a deſign of accommodating matters to his own intereſt; and that the favourite, in order to gain him, had promiſed him a cardinal's hat. Richlieu, at leaſt, was of ſome ſervice to the ſtate, at the ſame time that he was working for his own intereſt.

Luines did not long enjoy his good fortune; being attacked with a fever, of which he died in the forty-third year of his age, being at the ſame time conſtable and maſter of the ſeals. Lewis did not ſo much regret his death, as he found, in many inſtances, he had made him his maſter. Lewis ſeeing him come one day with a kind of affected ſtatelineſs, he ſaid to a lord near him, "Behold King Luines!" It is probable, however, he would never have had reſolution enough to break his chains, had not death interfered. Lewis complained, but knew not how to reign ſo valiantly as Henry IV. he was wanting in that ſtrength of mind, and courage of ſoul, which form great men and true he-

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roes. The following campaign, however, procured that glory of which he was moſt deſirous: he expoſed himſelf to dangers, and ſeveral times faced death. The Marſhal de Leſdeguieres, ſo celebrated for his exploits, ſerved him in quality of conſtable, and had at length ſacrificed his religion to his fortune; for the conſtable's ſword could be given only to a Catholic.

Lewis, after various expeditions in Poitou and Saintonge, beſieged Montpelier, which ſeemed determined to defend itſelf to the laſt extremities. A negociation took place, and peace was made on advantageous terms for the Hugonots, who obtained a confirmation of the edict of Nantz, and all their privileges. A general pardon was paſſed, and 800,000 livres were given to the rebellious Duke of Rohan; for the weakneſs of the monarch reduced him to recompence the chiefs of the rebellion. The Marquis de la Force, who had maintained the ſiege of Montaubon, had already been rewarded with 200,000 crowns and the Marſhal's ſtaff. From ſuch treaties, neither ſubmiſſion from the ſeditious, nor zeal from citizens, could be expected.

During theſe troubles in the kingdom, a religious war had been the cauſe of the ſame misfortunes in Germany. The proteſtants of Bohemia, having ſhaken off the yoke of the Emperor, had given themſelves to the Elector Palatine Frederic V. This prince, ſon-in-law to James I. the puſillanimous King of England, had received no ſuccours from him. The battle of Prague, in 1620, loſt him not only Bohemia, but his own eſtate. Never was a better opportunity for ſubjecting the Houſe of Auſtria, which Richlieu would not have loſt; but he no longer governed. Lewis favoured the Emperor Ferdinand II. chooſing rather to make war on his own ſubjects, than to weaken the power of the natural enemy of his crown. Such are the misfortunes natural to every ſtate, which is governed by a weak and miſguided prince.

Lewis had now need of ſome great genius to correct theſe political blunders: ſuch an one exiſted, who very ſoon removed all the obſtacles that ſtopped his fortune. The Queen-mother, from the time of her reconciliation with the King, had re-entered the council, and was deſirous of introducing Richlieu, who at length became Cardinal. The miniſters, fearing

fearing his ambition, and ſtill more the ſuperiority of his underſtanding, prejudiced Lewis againſt him. The gallantries, with which they reproached him, could not fail of hurting him in the eyes of a devout prince, too ſuſpicious of others, and too jealous of his own authority, not to fear him, who had been repreſented to him as the moſt ambitious of courtiers. However, by the means of Mary of Medicis, the Cardinal's enemies had, on a vacancy happening, the chagrin of ſeeing him admitted into the miniſtry. The more Richlieu ſecretly deſired ſuch promotion, the more repugnancy he affected on receiving it: his bad health, he ſaid, rendered him incapable of any long conſultations: all that he was able to do was to aſſiſt in the council, from time to time, without mixing in affairs of ſtate. The King was thus deceived; but Richlieu had other views, and ſome years afterwards the royal authority was entirely in his hands.

From the time Richlieu entered into the council, the government ſeemed to have changed its policy; for the greateſt deſigns were then conceived, and the beſt meaſures taken. They concluded a marriage between Henrietta of France, the

King's ſiſter, and the Prince of Wales, afterwards Charles I. on condition that the Princeſs and her houſhold ſhould enjoy the free exerciſe of the Catholic religion, and that their children ſhould be brought up with them till twelve years old. They made a new treaty with Holland, who had taken up arms againſt Spain, and who had torn themſelves to pieces by a religious war, in which the celebrated Barnevelt, the father and defender of his country, had been the victim.

The Princes and great people about the court were become too powerful, under a King who knew not how to reſtrain them, and being maſters in their governments, they held cabals. Gaſton, Duke of Orleans, brother to Lewis, had a party: the Marſhal de Ornans, his Governor, had irritated him againſt his ſovereign and the miniſter, and formed a plot to aſſaſſinate Richlieu. It was thought, that Gaſton pretended both to the crown and the wife of his brother.

The Cardinal, under the title of Superintendant of the Marine, became maſter of the naval force, which at this time was in a ſtate of ruin. He felt the neceſſity of eſtabliſhing it, and made it the object

ject of his care to authorize the changes he meditated.

In 1627, the Counts Chapelles and Boutteville, noblemen diſtinguiſhed by their bravery, had their heads cut off on a ſcaffold, for having fought duels; for the rage of duelling at that time made terrible havock. They reckoned nearly eighty thouſand pardons being granted, in leſs than twenty years, to gentlemen who had killed others in ſingle combat. This was what had determined Henry IV. to renew the prohibition againſt duels; but imbibing, perhaps, himſelf certain prejudices on the ſide of bravery, he winked at the infringements of the law. The ſeverity of Lewis XIII. or rather of Richlieu, ſeemed neceſſary to extirpate this abuſe; but it was not in their power to put a total ſtop to it. Humanity and reaſon have more force than laws againſt a barbarous prejudice; they ſoften the manners of mankind, and make them ſenſible of the abſurdities of a point of honour, which ſullies them with murder, and makes them guilty of injuſtice.

While Cardinal Richlieu was diſpoſing of every thing in the kingdom as he pleaſed, the Duke of Buckingham, miniſter and favourite of Charles I. engaged England

land in a war againſt France. The French Catholics, who accompanied Henrietta to London, had given much umbrage to the Engliſh by the imprudence of their zeal. It was a ſubject of complaint; but the vanity of Buckingham alone was the cauſe of the rupture between the two crowns. He was infatuated by a romantic paſſion for Queen Ann of Auſtria; he dared even to make a confeſſion of it, and wiſhed to return to Paris, under pretence of ſigning a treaty againſt Spain, in order to be nearer the object of his paſſion.

Buckingham, not being able to obtain that permiſſion from Lewis, became piqued at the diſappointment; and, jealous of the Cardinal, he reſolved on a war, excited the Rochellers to a new revolt, and himſelf ſailed to aſſiſt them; but the temerity of the Engliſh miniſter was the ruin of Rochelle. Richlieu undertook to ſubject this bulwark of calviniſm; and Buckingham, as bad a general as he was an audacious courtier, was defeated at the iſle of Rhe, where the Marquis of Thoiras purſued the Engliſh. Rochelle was inveſted, and famine would have forced them to yield; but how could the gates be ſhut againſt the Engliſh fleet? Richlieu, in imitation of Alexander, conſtructed

ſtructed a prodigious bank in the ocean, the deſign of which was looked upon as chimerical. Lewis left him commander of the ſiege, in quality of general; and, on this occaſion, Richlieu gave an example, how much genius could ſupply the want of experience, even in war; for order, diſcipline, and abundance, were not wanting. The Cardinal aſtoniſhed the ſoldiers by his valour, and his captains by his addreſs.

Rochelle, however, ſeemed invincible. The people had elected for their mayor, Guiton, a man ſuperior to all danger, and an intrepid magiſtrate, who, after accepting the charge with ſome reluctance, taking up a dagger, and ſhewing it to the citizens, ſaid, "I will be your mayor, ſince you will have it ſo, on condition that I ſhall plunge this dagger into the breaſt of the firſt man who ſhall talk of ſurrendering; and they ſhall make uſe of it againſt me, if I make any propoſals of capitulation: for this uſe, I inſiſt that it be always left upon the council table."

The ſiege was drawn out for a length of time. The Engliſh had ſhewed themſelves without doing any thing; but Buckingham was embarking with a more powerful army, when a fanatic Iriſhman aſſaſſinated

ſaſſinated him. All the horrors of famine were at length felt by the inhabitants of Rochelle, which made them refuſe to feed any uſeleſs people, when an infinite number of wretched creatures periſhed with famine, miſery, and deſpair. When it was repreſented to the mayor, that there would ſoon remain no more than a handful of inhabitants, "Very well, (replied he, without being at all moved) it is ſufficient that there remains one to ſhut the gates." Guiton declared in full council, that he would, if they choſe it, be killed, and give his body for their nouriſhment, rather than conſent to ſurrender to the enemy. His boldneſs was ſeconded by the fanaticiſm of the miniſters. The mother and ſiſter of the Duke of Rohan, martyrs to their ſect, gave the example of an heroic patience; but the Engliſh fleet, ſo long expected, not being able to force the bank, and having been repulſed, all hope of ſuccour vaniſhed with them, hunger damped the courage of the Rochellers, and they were forced to ſurrender, after having made eleven months glorious reſiſtance.

During the courſe of the ſiege, the King returned, and ſignalized himſelf there by his valour. The Cardinal boaſted, however, that he had taken Rochelle in ſpite of

of the King of Spain, the King of England, and more eſpecially the King of France: while the enemies of the miniſter endeavoured to give Lewis the praiſe of ſo glorious an enterpriſe. The chief part of the great men, more attached to the increaſe of their fortunes than to the good of the ſtate, feared the ruin of a party, from which they could, on occaſion, draw ſuch great advantages; and the Marquis of Boſſompiere dared publicly to ſay, "We ſhall, perhaps, find ourſelves ſufficiently fooliſh in taking Rochelle." This famous city, which, through its power and its rebellion, had rendered itſelf of conſequence to its ſovereigns for above two hundred years, always ready to riſe againſt them in the moſt critical circumſtances, was now no longer maſter of its laws, or the exerciſe of its religion. Its fortifications were raiſed, and its privileges aboliſhed, after having coſt fourteen millions to reduce it to obedience. The loſs of it gave calviniſm, for ſome time, a mortal ſtroke; but it afterwards raiſed its head through the firmneſs of the Duke of Rohan, a man the moſt proper to be the ſoul and ſupport of a party.

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Theſe glorious enterpriſes, however, could not fail of irritating the jealouſy and hatred of the Cardinal's enemies. Arriving at court, he was ill received by the Queen-mother, whoſe confidence he had hitherto enjoyed. The Cardinal de Berulle at that time governed her, and gave her an ill opinion of the miniſter. When he appeared, the Princeſs coldly enquired after his health. "I am very well, (replied he, in the preſence of Berulle) though theſe who are here would not have it ſo." The King, however, more through policy than affection, gave him a patent of prime miniſter, and the title of Lieutenant-General of the army in Italy.

While Richlieu was carrying on the war in Italy, Mary of Medicis was redoubling her efforts to ruin him. Lewis being dangerouſly ill at Lyons, the continual entreaties and importunities of his mother tore from him a promiſe of diſmiſſing the Cardinal; and every one expected a change that would deſtroy the kingdom. As ſoon as Richlieu heard of it, he endeavoured by every means to reconcile himſelf: he often threw himſelf at the feet of the Queen, without being able to make any impreſſion on her: "I would rather give myſelf to the devil, (ſaid ſhe)

ſhe) than not be revenged." The miniſter now ſaw the moment of his diſgrace haſtily approaching; he was on the point of taking leave, and had already ſecured his treaſures in a place of ſafety, when Lewis changed his mind, and again received Richlieu into favour: "Continue to ſerve me as you have done, (ſaid the monarch to him) and I will ſupport you againſt all the intrigues of your enemies."

There has been ſcarcely ſeen, in the courſe of the tranſactions of France, a change more ſingular, or more fatal to thoſe who believed themſelves in the height of favour. Marilac, the keeper of the great ſeals, and the Marſhal his brother, both creatures of Mary de Medicis, hoped to ſucceed to the credit of the firſt miniſter; but they felt all the weight of his vengeance; one was forced to render back the ſeals, and the other was arreſted in Italy, in the midſt of the army he commanded; and, being brought to a trial and condemned, in 1632, was beheaded. This was conſidered as an atrocious act of cruelty in Richlieu, who here ſuffered public juſtice to be violated in ſupport of his own implacable revenge to this unfortunate but brave marſhal.

Nothing but diſſentions were now ſeen at court. Richlieu, though he owed his fortune to Mary de Medicis, was forced, by his circumſtances, to become her perſecutor. Lewis took part againſt his mother, on the ſide of a ſubject who was of uſe to him, and left her priſoner at Compeigne, and alſo baniſhed or arreſted her friends and domeſtics. The Marſhal de Boſſompiere, on the ſlighteſt ſuſpicion, was ſhut up twelve years in the Baſtile. Thoſe who followed the Duke of Orleans, were declared criminals againſt his majeſty, and the parliament treated them with rigour. Thus the Cardinal raiſed himſelf more and more on the ruins of his enemies.

The grand project of abaſing the houſe of Auſtria began now to be executed. Ferdinand II. in ordering the reſtitution of the Catholic eſtates, which had been taken by the proteſtants, drew into his arms a part of Germany; and Richlieu, in ſpite of the Catholics, animated the proteſtant alliance, that being moſt favourable to his projects. Religion was the people's motive for war, and reaſons of ſtate determined the politicians. The moſt powerful of the Lutheran princes, the famous Guſtavus Adolphus, King of Sweden,

Sweden, was armed againſt the Emperor, and his victories ſhook the foundation of that monarch's dominions. France furniſhed money, and the valour of Guſtavus did all the reſt.

Gaſton, aſſiſted by the Duke of Lorrain, whoſe ſiſter he had married, kindled the flame of civil war, in order to be revenged on the Cardinal, who, in the mean time, was well acquainted with all his ſteps; for he had ſpies every where, who ſerved him zealouſly, becauſe their ſervices were well rewarded. The Duke of Lorrain was the firſt victim; the King ſeized ſome of his beſt places, and made him promiſe, by two treaties, to abandon Gaſton entirely. Gaſton had now no other reſource but the Duke of Montmorency, Governor of Languedoc, one of the braveſt and moſt amiable noblemen of his time, and brother-in-law to the Prince of Condé. Happy would it have been for him could he have bounded his deſires; but his aim was to be conſtable, and he complained of the court, whoſe ambition would not grant him all that he wiſhed.

The Duke of Orleans having drawn him into his party, took the rout to Languedoc with ſome foreign troops, and publiſhed a manifeſto againſt the miniſter,

giving himſelf the title of Lieutenant-General to the King, for the reformation of the diſorders introduced into the kingdom by Cardinal Richlieu. Gaſton, ſtill more weak than his brother, gave himſelf up to his favourites, without ſeeking for men of merit, imagining that a manifeſto, and three or four thouſand ſoldiers, would very ſoon draw after him a crowd of partizans; but no one ſtirred in his favour, and the cities cloſing their gates againſt him, his little army ſubſiſted only on rapine.

Richlieu kept all in obedience, either through fear or a ſenſe of duty. Montmorency, exhauſted by debts, could not on his ſide, aſſemble many troops, nor make any conſiderable party. As ſoon as he arrived in Languedoc, the Prince was purſued by the royal army, and a ſkirmiſh, rather than a battle, finiſhed the war. The impetuous Montmorency, having paſſed a mote almoſt alone, threw himſelf in the midſt of the ſquadrons of Schomberg, received a piſtol ſhot in his mouth, and fell, covered with wounds, after having fought in a furious manner. Gaſton, whether through cowardice or deference for his favourites, retired without fighting, though he had the advantage of numbers.

bers. This deciſive day brought propoſals of a peace, and the King pardoned his brother; but the illuſtrious Montmorency died on a ſcaffold, amidſt the groáns and lamentations of all Thouloufe, and even of the palace itſelf.

In the midſt of cabals and conſpiracies, which were inceſſantly forming againſt Richlieu, he meditated new enterprizes againſt the Houſe of Auſtria, which were the means of rendering himſelf more neceſſary to the King, who was incapable alone of ſupporting ſo great an undertaking. By a treaty concluded with Holland, they engaged themſelves to make war with the King of Spain, Philip IV. if he did not give ſatisfaction on different grievances, of which France complained. They projected the conqueſt of the Low Spaniſh countries, and were ſo ſure of ſucceſs, as to make the diviſion before they began the campaign. However, they failed in every thing, and Lewis complained bitterly of the little ſucceſs of his arms; but Richlieu managed with ſo much addreſs, that theſe complaints did him no harm.

To repair the ill ſucceſs of the laſt campaign, Richlieu adopted a new plan, which again failed in execution. The Spaniards entered the Low Countries in

Picardy, and in a few days took Chapelle, Corbic, and Catelet, which Richlieu had neglected to fortify. He imputed to the commanders a loſs, which was attributed by the reſt of the world to his own negligence. Terror ſpread itſelf through Paris and the court; but zeal re-animated Richlieu in his danger. In theſe ſad circumſtances, having drawn on himſelf the utmoſt hatred, he was on the point of quitting the miniſtry, when father Joſeph perſuaded him to the contrary. Very powerful enemies were, however, weaving a thread for the deſtruction of the miniſter. The Duke of Orleans and the Count de Soiſſons, who commanded the army in Picardy, reſolved to have him ſtabbed, even in the very houſe of the King. The moment for execution was come, and the aſſaſſins only waited for a ſignal from Gaſton, when that prince, ever changing and irreſolute, was all at once ſhocked with the idea of being reckoned an aſſaſſin. He retired with precipitation, and Richlieu, without knowing it, eſcaped the danger of an inevitable death. The plotters could not be long unknown, and the two princes quitted the court. This was a new ſubject of inquietude to the Cardinal, at a time when enemies

enemies without doors were too much to be feared.

While money was wanting for the common neceſſaries of the ſtate, the expences of Richlieu's houſe alone amounted to four millions annually; he lived like a King, and eclipſed the ſplendour of the throne. Lewis often taking notice of theſe particulars, was what perhaps engaged the Cardinal to make him a preſent of the palace he had built, which is now the palace royal, and in which magnificence ſhines forth with the greateſt luſtre. He is conſtantly reproached by poſterity, with not having managed the revenues of the ſtate in the manner Sully had done, and with having made ſumptuary laws for others, without ſetting any bounds to his own luxury. The want of finances made him loſe the Valteline: they were not able to ſend ſubſidies to the Duke of Rohan, who had made himſelf maſter of it. He was therefore obliged to abandon this important conqueſt, and retire to Geneva, for fear that the miniſter ſhould puniſh in him a misfortune, of which he himſelf was the cauſe.

The little intrigues at court gave more inquietude to Richlieu than the events of war. He had given to Lewis for his confeſſor

feſſor Father Cauſin, who was the author of a book of devotion that is now laughed at. The Cardinal believed him a ſimple man, incapable of creating any troubles, and who would eaſily enter into all his views; but it happened that, in a little time, the ſimplicity of this jeſuit changed the face of government. His prejudices made him look on the alliances with the Proteſtants againſt the Houſe of Auſtria as an abominable thing, and he dared to attribute it to the ambition of the Cardinal. He accuſed him of loading the people with taxes; of treating the Queen-mother inhumanly, who lived at Bruſſels in want of every thing; and of rendering the government odious by his injuſtice. The devout monarch lent a willing ear to the diſcourſe of the imprudent confeſſor. Lewis liked to hear the miniſter declaimed againſt, and was the firſt to blame him in ſecret. He deſcended to the more minute detail of his private life, and found every thing bad; but the conſolation of weak ſouls is to complain without the power of acting.

Richlieu, in a diſcourſe he had with the King, without much trouble, through the ſtrength of reaſon and eloquence, diſpelled the impreſſions the jeſuit had made in

in his flexible mind. He revenged himſelf by the baniſhment of Cauſſin, who carried nothing but blame with him to his own country. At the ſame time, he obliged the Ducheſs of Savoy to ſend back to court Father Monord, another jeſuit, confeſſor to that princeſs, who had, it is ſaid, more wit and malice than Cauſſin had ſimplicity and ignorance. Monord openly attacked him, and his diſgrace was a ſtate affair; for the miniſter had no way of ſupporting himſelf but by ſtraining authority. The jeſuits found they had need of all their addreſs and credit, to prevent the ſtorms which theſe raſh confeſſors drew on them.

War, raiſed in Europe through the policy of the Cardinal, produced an infinite number of events, the detail of which would furniſh no inſtruction. It was the cuſtom of Richlieu, after any reverſe of fortune, to puniſh ſome illuſtrious victim, either to ſatisfy his vengeance, or to excite duty by ſpreading terror. Four hundred new patent places, created in the parliament of Paris, and other extraordinary means employed to gain money, encreaſed the murmurs of the nation, and raiſed a powerful rebellion in Normandy, which was ſtifled by military executions. The

parliament

parliament of Rouen was interdicted, for not having ſhewed ſufficient vigour againſt the ſeditious.

In the mean time, the Count de Soiſſons, who had always found a retreat at Sedan, prepared himſelf for a civil war. He held a correſpondence with Spain, and was ſupported by the Dukes of Bouillon and Guiſe. Before the plot broke out, Richlieu endeavoured to engage the brave Gaſſion, who was then nothing more than a Colonel, to pretend to embrace the part of the Count; by which means he might dive into his ſecrets, and betray them to the court. This was an unfailling opportunity for Gaſſion to raiſe his fortune; but he diſdained to be exalted by ſuch diſhonourable means. "If I had nothing to loſe but my life, (ſaid he to the miniſter) I would give it for the ſervice of your eminence; but I can never ſacrifice my honour."—It is enough, (replied the Cardinal) your fortune will ſuffer by it; but you will not loſe my eſteem." Gaſſion kept the ſecret, and Richlieu, with a becoming nobleneſs of ſoul, teſtified his approbation of his conduct.

The rebels, in the mean time, got together a conſiderable army; the Marſhal de

de Chatillon commanded that of the King, and was defeated at Morſee by the Count de Soiſſon. If that prince had not been killed in battle, his victory would undoubtedly have been of great conſequence. The Duke of Bouillon, to preſerve to himſelf Sedan, haſtily made deceitful terms, and entered into a new conſpiracy, while he was ſwearing inviolable fidelity. Cinquemars, a favourite of Lewis XIII. was the principal author of the plot, of which Richlieu was to be the victim.

This young man, being raiſed to the dignity of Grand Eſquire, owed all his fortune to the Cardinal, who had taught him the manner of captivating the King. Ambition ſtifled all ſenſe of gratitude, and he deteſted his benefactor, becauſe he pretended to govern him. He had no more real regard for the monarch; for, ſeduced by the hope of ſupplanting the miniſter and the governor of the kingdom, he excited the Duke of Orleans to rebellion, and drew the Duke de Bouillon into his cabal, when they ſent an emiſſary into Spain to make a treaty, in the name of Gaſton, to open France to its enemies.

Lewis went in perſon to conquer Rouſſillon, and never did the credit of Cinqemars appear greater than in this journey.

He

He no longer concealed any thing, and openly profeſſed his hatred of the Cardinal; he even propoſed to the King, either to have him aſſaſſinated, or driven from the court. The King ſeemed reſolved to do the latter, and Richlieu, who was dangerouſly ill at Teraſcon, had no longer any doubt of his diſgrace; but his good fortune ſaved him from this danger. He diſcovered the treaty concluded by the factions with Spain, and gave advice of it to the King. The face of affairs ſoon changed, Cinqemars was arreſted, and he, with ſome others of his aſſociates, paid for their raſhneſs and ingratitude, by the forfeiture of their lives on a ſcaffold.

Soon after theſe executions, the Cardinal, having received the news of the taking of Perpignan, wrote thus to the King, who was returned to Paris: "Sire, your enemies are dead, and your arms are in Perpignan." Triumphant over his own enemies rather than thoſe of the King, but worn out by ſickneſs, he took the road to court, and made part of the journey in a kind of chamber, covered with damaſk, which his guards carried on their ſhoulders. The decline of his body had not at all hurt the vigour of his mind, and he ſtill promiſed himſelf the regency after the

deceaſe

*Richlieus Journey to Court*

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deceaſe of Lewis XIII. but death put a period to all his ambitious views and his life, in the year 1642, and in the fifty-eighth of his age.

In receiving the extreme unction, he called God to witneſs, that, in the courſe of his miniſtry, he had never any other view than the good of religion and the ſtate; but the voice of the public did not give him ſo flattering a teſtimony. However, his ambition, his deſpotiſm, his cruel revenge, and his little jealouſies, could not efface the glory of his great enterpriſes. He is reproached with having ſacrificed the laws of humanity to his paſſions; but it ſhould be remembered, that he conquered Rochelle, reſtrained the ſeditious, and made France reſpectable to its enemies. The Czar Peter had ſo high an idea of this miniſter, that, at the ſight of his tomb in the church of the Sarbonne, he cried, in a tranſport of enthuſiaſm, "O great man! if thou wert ſtill alive, I would give one half of my empire to learn of thee how to govern the other half."

The Queen-mother, Mary de Medicis, died in indigence at Cologne; and Lewis did not long ſurvive her, he dying in May, 1643, in the forty-ſecond year

of his age, and in the thirty-third of his reign.

During this reign, the human mind began to diſpel the clouds of error and barbariſm, which covered it. Malherbe and Corneille laid the foundation of French poetry; Deſcartes baniſhed the abſurdities of the ſchools, and opened, by wiſe inveſtigations, the road to truth; while the great Chancellor Bacon in England cultivated that ſtem of uſeful knowledge, which afterwards throve with ſuch vigour in all parts of Europe. Gallilée in Italy demonſtrated the motion of the earth round the ſun; but prejudice blinded the multitude. The inquiſition impriſoned Gallilée as an impious man, becauſe he knew the heavens; and Deſcartes was accuſed of atheiſm, becauſe he had greater ideas of God and nature than his weak accuſers. It is ſcarcely to be credited, that the parliament of Paris at this time prohibited, under pain of death, the teaching of any doctrine contrary to that of Ariſtotle. The perſecution of Urban Grandiere, a prieſt at Loudon, condemned to the fire in 1634, for having, it was ſaid, bewitched a whole convent of religious, is a celebrated monument of the ignorance of our anceſtors. Thus ignorance

rance dictated unjuſt laws, and made thoſe unhappy people periſh in torments, whom they falſely ſuppoſed culpable.

## LEWIS XIV.

We are now entering on the moſt important reign in the hiſtory of France, and ſhall therefore be particular in our account of it.—Lewis XIV. born in 1638, began, in the weakneſs and troubles of a ſtormy minority, a reign that carried, to the higheſt degree, the glory of the nation and the royal power. His mother, Ann of Auſtria, had, by act of parliament, the abſolute regency, and the limits, which Lewis XIII. had ſet at his death, were buried in oblivion; but this was not the firſt time that the wills of ſovereigns had been annulled after their deceaſe, actual authority overpowered that which no longer exiſted.

The Queen changed the council in what manner ſhe judged moſt proper, and appointed Cardinal Jules Mazarin prime miniſter. He became, on that account, though a foreigner, maſter of the government of the ſtate. Richlieu had been acquainted with him during the war in Italy, where Mazarin negociated for the Duke

of Savoy. He had afterwards fixed him in France as a man capable of ſeconding his views, and managing buſineſs with addreſs. The prudent Italian juſtified his choice; but his great judgment made it a difficult matter to find one to ſucceed him when he ſhould retire. The war undertaken againſt the Houſe of Auſtria was an occaſion of murmur for a long time to the nation, who bore the expences, and groaned beneath the weight of them. The plan of the late reign was ſtill purſued, and glorious victories raiſed the fame of France to a great height.

At length, after many bloody conteſts, the detail of which would fill volumes, the treaty of Weſtphalia reſtored tranquillity to one part of Europe. It ſet proper bounds to the power of the emperor, and fixed the claims of the different princes of Germany; at the ſame time confirming the proteſtants of that country in the poſſeſſion of eccleſiaſtical lands, that had been taken from them.

Though Mazarin at firſt affected as much modeſty and mildneſs as Richlieu had ſhewed haughtineſs and cruelty, yet he was the object of public hatred. They could not pardon a foreigner, being poſſeſſed of that immenſe fortune which made him

him maſter of the ſtate, and they ridiculed his perſon, his manners, and his bad pronunciation: ridicule in France is capable of producing many ſerious effects. Some trifling matters kindled a civil war, and Lewis XIV. who gave laws to Europe by the treaty of Weſtphalia, was obliged to leave his capital.

The Spaniards took the advantage of theſe circumſtances; and the fear of ſeeing them very ſoon in France produced an accommodation, with which neither the court nor the inſurgents were ſatisfied. Mazarin, however, preſerved his place, and the parliament its authority.

The civil wars ſoon broke out again, and the Prince of Condé, his brother, and the Duke of Longueville, his brother-in-law, obliged Mazarin to quit the kingdom. Though Lewis XIV. had attained the age of majority, the parliament declared the feeble Gaſton Lieutenant-General of the kingdom, who were always unſtable through character, but now fixed by the preſence of the Prince of Condé. However, the departure of Mazarin appeaſed theſe troubles. Paris returned to its obedience, and Conde ſought an aſylum in the Low Countries, where the

King of Spain made him generaliſſimo of his army.

About this period, Charles the Firſt, King of England, loſt his head on a ſcaffold, for having, at the beginning of his troubles, given up the life of Strafford, his favourite, to his parliament. Lewis XIV. on the contrary, became the peaceable maſter of his kingdom by ſuffering the exile of Mazarin; and thus the ſame weakneſſes had different effects. The King of England, by abandoning his favourite, encouraged a people who breathed nothing but war, and who wiſhed to curtail the arbitrary power of kings; while Lewis XIV. or rather the Queen-mother, by ſending away the Cardinal, took away all pretence of rebellion from a people, who were tired of war, and who loved deſpotic royalty.

This contraſt, ſay the French hiſtorians, delineates the character of the two nations; but we ought to obſerve a more eſſential difference in the two wars. A ſpirit of cabal, without any fixed object, without any deep views, full of lightneſs and caprice, had agitated France, as a flying ſtorm troubles the ſurface of the ſea, inſtead of that violent fanaticiſm and enthuſiaſm of liberty, which had armed the

the Engliſh againſt the unhappy Charles. The puritans and independents, more fanatical than the leaguers under Henry III. made it a religious duty to cruſh the throne; and the hypocritical Cromwell knew how to employ thoſe powerful reſources, which tranſported men out of themſelves. After having vanquiſhed his maſter, and ſubdued his party, he dictated the ſentence, by which the ſubjects held a court of judicature on the life of a king.

The heads of the rebellion in Paris diſappeared as ſoon as the King entered his capital. Lewis regulated the future conduct of his uncle Gaſton, who finiſhed his days at Blois, having never merited either the glory of a good ſubject, or the reputation of the chief of a party, being always factious without courage or firmneſs, fearing every thing for himſelf, and nothing for thoſe who ſerved him. The famous Cardinal de Retz, who had deeply intereſted himſelf in theſe intrigues, was no longer of any conſideration in the ſtate, and, in 1679, died in his retreat. Cardinal Mazarin, the object of ſo much hatred and conſpiracy, returned to Paris in triumph, when both the people and parliament received him with great honours

The

The Prince of Conti married one of his nieces, and at length, by the force of mildneſs and patience, he became as abſolute as Richlieu.

The Spaniards, taking advantage of the cabals in France, retook Barcelona, Caſſel, Gravelines, and Dunkirk. Turenne ſtopped them, and raiſed the ſiege of Arras, where the Prince of Conde, who had the misfortune of fighting againſt his country, met with a thouſand diſagreeable circumſtances in the ſervice of Spain. He always ſhewed himſelf a great general; but his deſtiny ſeemed to vanquiſh only for France. So obſtinate a war had exhauſted the two nations, and each of them endeavoured to make an alliance with Cromwell, which was a meaſure generally abhorred. This uncommon man reigned under the title of Protector, making maritime affairs and juſtice flouriſh in England. After he had ſullied himſelf with the blood of his King, the crowned heads endeavoured to draw him into their party, ſo much does policy ſometimes overcome juſtice. Mazarin decided it againſt the Spaniards, and the condition of the treaty was, that they ſhould abandon Charles II. It was now thought neceſſary to ſacrifice the cauſe of a king to the intereſt

intereſt of an uſurper. The Queen of England, Henrietta, daughter of Henry IV. lived in France in an indigent manner, and her two ſons retired into Spain. The Spaniards filled Europe with invectives againſt the French miniſter, as if they had been ignorant of the offers that had been made by themſelves to the Protector.

In the expedition to Flanders, Conde and Turenne encreaſed their reputation by fighting againſt each other. The firſt had the glory of ſaving Cambray, where he arrived before they had completed the inveſtiture of the city; but he loſt the battle of Dunes, which was followed by the taking of Dunkirk. This place was delivered to the Engliſh, agreeably to the promiſe made to Cromwell, who died ſoon after, amidſt thoſe troubles that are inſeparable from uſurpation. At length, however, France and Spain concluded a war, which had been ſo pernicious to both of them. France kept Rouſſillon and a part of Artois; the King of Spain renounced his pretenſions to Alſace; and the Infanta Maria Thereſa was given to Lewis XIV. The re-eſtabliſhment of the Prince of Conde was one of the conditions of peace, which Mazarin would not have conſented to, if the Spaniards had not appeared

peared disposed to give that Prince strong places in the Low Countries. A dethroned and fugitive King, related to the crowns of France and Spain, the unfortunate Charles II. could not obtain any mention of himself in this treaty: the two ministers, for fear of offending the English, refused at the same time to see him; but he was some months afterwards reestablished, by one of those sudden revolutions, of which England furnishes many examples. Thus the treaty of the Pyrennees finished the grand work of the peace, which that of Westphalia had very much advanced; and both of them encreased the glory of Mazarin, a glory preferable to that of Richlieu, whose policy set Europe in a blaze, and left to his successor the trouble of extinguishing the flames.

The Cardinal Mazarin, like Richlieu, died before he reached the age of sixty, in 1661. The one was naturally proud, courageous, and exalted; the other was mild, cunning, and circumspect. His immense riches were a proof of the insatiable avarice, of which he was accused, and his mercenary management of the affairs of state rendered him odious in the eyes of the people.

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The time was now come, when the government of France was to put on a new face; for, hitherto, two all-powerful miniſters had governed with ſucceſs, without making it happy. Divided between their own intereſts and that of the nation, in procuring themſelves glory, they had left the nation poor, and leſs flouriſhing than it had been under Henry IV. They now ſaw what it was to have a King, who joined nobleneſs of ſentiment to a penetrating mind, and application to buſineſs. From the time that Lewis XIV. began to reign, he became the idol of France, and excited the admiration of Europe. He was almoſt the only ſovereign who was now diſtinguiſhed by perſonal merit.

It was not expected, that a monarch of twenty-two years of age, who had loved pleaſure, and ſo long avoided the troubles of politics, and ſubmitted to the will of Mazarin, would take on himſelf the reigns of government, and be capable of properly managing them; but his reſolution was taken, and he inſtantly put it in force. At the firſt council, held after the death of the miniſter, he declared he would judge for himſelf, and prohibited any thing being done without his orders.

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"The face of the theatre is changed, (ſaid he) I will introduce other principles into the government of my ſtate, in the regulation of my finances, and in the negociations without doors, than what were in the time of the late Cardinal. You now know my will, gentlemen, it is your duty to execute it." From that moment the council aſſumed a reſpectable form, which Mazarin had in ſome degree abated by holding it in his chamber, while he ſhaved and dreſſed himſelf, and amuſed himſelf with a bird or a monkey; but the King loved order and decency in the moſt common concerns.

One of the moſt dangerous wounds to a kingdom is the waſte of its finances, being equally fatal to the prince, whoſe deſigns it croſſes, and to the ſubject, from whom it draws taxes. Lewis felt the neceſſity of remedying theſe evils. The depredations of Fouquet, who was as profuſe, as Mazarin was avaricious, in the expences of the ſtate, had determined the King to puniſh him: he ordered him to be arreſted, after having loaded him with careſſes; but this ſtrange act of diſſimulation certainly did the King no credit. Colbert, one of the authors of the ruin of Fouquet, ſucceeded him, under the

the title of Comptroller General of the finances, and the place of ſuperintendant was aboliſhed. Much zeal, application, and ſagacity, rendered this miniſter worthy of the choice of Lewis. Taxes were at once conſiderably diminiſhed, and commerce, in a little time, became the ſource of abundant riches. After three years proſecution, they condemned the ſuperintendant to baniſhment, which was changed into perpetual impriſonment. The Academician Poliſſon had the courage to defend him, while the greater part of his friends abandoned him in his diſgrace. Such marks of generoſity ought always to be celebrated in the annals of literature.

It is the actions which fix the character of a man. The King, naturally fierce and fond of glory, very ſoon learned to what height he ought to be reſpected abroad. His Ambaſſador at London having been inſulted by the miniſter from Spain, who diſputed precedence with him, he threatened Philip IV. his father-in-law, again to take up arms againſt him, if he did not make amends for this inſult. The King of Spain had the prudence, or meanneſs, to comply; and an extraordinary Ambaſſador, which he ſent expreſs

to Lewis, declared publicly, that the Spaniſh miniſters were no longer on a footing with thoſe of France. Pope Alexander VII. at the ſame time, was obliged to humble himſelf before the young monarch. The lacquey of the French Ambaſſador had attacked an eſcort of the body-guard in the middle of Rome. Thoſe kinds of violence were then too frequent among the French, whoſe audacity and inſolence often ſet the laws at defiance. The guards furiouſly beſieged the Hotel of the Ambaſſador, and killed ſome of his domeſtics. At this news, the King demanded ſatisfaction of the Pope. The court of Rome endeavoured to gain time to draw itſelf out of this embarraſſment; but the French ſeized on Avignon, which was an eaſy means of procuring the terms deſired. The Pope ſent the Cardinal Chigi, his nephew, to aſk the King's pardon; and Lewis had the body-guard caſhiered, when he raiſed a pyramid in memory of this event. So much vigour, in affairs of ſmall conſequence, ſhewed the European princes what they had to expect in matters of greater moment.

Charles II. ſold Dunkirk to Lewis, who ſpared no expence to render it a ſtrong place,

place, and a matter of terror and jealouſy to the Engliſh, who never pardoned Charles for a ſtep ſo contrary to the good of his country. The finance, which Colbert had re-eſtabliſhed, put Lewis in a condition to form the greateſt deſigns; and he had already renewed the age of Auguſtus by the prodigious benefactions he beſtowed on people of letters, as well foreigners as his own ſubjects. He now began the wonderful canal of Languedoc, which joined the two ſeas, in ſpite of the mountains which ſeparated them. He founded the Eaſt India Company, and a number of manufactures likely to enrich the kingdom. He built a new navy, which was the more neceſſary as the ſhips of England and Holland covered the ocean, while France had only ſixteen ſhips. His policy was for ſome time concealed from the different courts of Europe, and he only waited an occaſion of ſignalizing himſelf by ſtriking enterpriſes. His ambition was too much inclined to that kind of glory, which coſts tears to the fatherleſs and widow, the deſire of brilliant conqueſts; and an occaſion ſoon offered to ſatiate his ambition.

After the death of Philip IV. it was pretended in France, that Queen Maria

Thereſa of Auſtria, his daughter by the firſt marriage, had a claim on Flanders and the French county, to the excluſion of the new King of Spain, a child by the ſecond marriage. Their reſpective claims were diſcuſſed in various books publiſhed in France and Spain; but arms were to decide the diſpute. An abſolute monarch, rich and well ſerved, was ſure of conquering Spain, which was then governed by jeſuits. Lewis, accompanied by Marſhal de Turenne, with troops perfectly well diſciplined, made himſelf maſter, in one campaign, of almoſt all Flanders.

Theſe rapid conqueſts raiſed the envy and jealouſy of the powers of Europe, who viewed his ambition in a light dangerous to the general peace and welfare of the neighbouring kingdoms. Holland, fearing ſuch a neighbour as France, whoſe aſſiſtance had been ſo advantageous to her, ſuddenly entered into a treaty with England, and alſo with the Swedes, who had been for a long time friends of France, in favour of Spain, againſt whom ſhe had always fought. Thus policy broke through all alliances, and formed new ones in ſpite of preſent intereſt. Lewis foreſaw the effects of this triple alliance, and offered peace to Spain, which was afterwards

afterwards concluded at Aix-la-chapelle, when France gave back the French county, but kept all their conqueſts in Flanders.

Lewis, exceſſively jealous of his glory, could not pardon the Hollanders for having dared to contradict his deſigns. This republic, whoſe lands were ſo barren, and whoſe abilities were ſo ſmall, was become, through induſtry and commerce, as powerful as proud. Its conqueſts, its eſtabliſhments in the Eaſt-Indies, and a prodigious navy, had made it a diſpute with the Engliſh the empire of the ocean, and it had often fought for the vain honour of the flag. It ceaſed to be friends with France, when it no longer wanted its ſupport; for the Dutch policy was not very ſcrupulous in the common duties of ſociety. Lewis knew how to deſpiſe things of this nature, by demanding ſatisfaction of the ſtates. Reſolving to ſubdue Holland, he eaſily detached from their intereſt the King of England, Charles II. who was a voluptuous and extravagant prince, and whom the want of money had rendered very tractable; and the Swedes, who were alſo gained over, renounced the triple alliance. Every meaſure being taken with as much ſecrecy as

activity, war was declared and commenced. Upwards of 200,000 men were employed to conquer a little ſtate, which had not more than 25,000 ſoldiers for its defence. The King croſſed the Rhine, and ſpread terror and alarm through all the Dutch ſtates.

The ſucceſs of this campaign was rapid; for three provinces, and four fortified places, were conquered in leſs than a month. Amſterdam ſaw the power of France at its gates, when the ſtates implored the clemency of the victor. The conditions of peace, propoſed by the French, appeared dreadful to a free people, whoſe courage began to be rouſed by deſpair. John de Witt, through his deſire for peace, became odious to the Dutch, when the fury of the populous ſacrificed him to their hatred. They thought only of ſaving the republic, or burying themſelves under its ruins; and for this purpoſe they opened the dykes of the ſea, expoſing themſelves, by ſuch an inundation, to the greateſt inconveniences. A pint of freſh water was ſold for ſix-pence; but the love of liberty and of their country produced the moſt heroic efforts. While Holland was thus under water, or in the hands of the French,

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the Dutch fleet often fought with thoſe of England and France, and ſupported the honour of the republic. Mean time, the Emperor Leopold, the King of Spain, and the greateſt part of the princes of the empire, alarmed by the conqueſts of France, united themſelves with Holland, to ſtop a torrent which ſeemed to threaten all Europe. The King of England was forced by his parliament to make peace; for the murmurs of the nation were univerſal againſt the conduct of Charles II. The war was continued by the French with unremitted ardour; two cities and twenty-five villages were reduced to aſhes, and all the horrors of war fell on innocent victims, of whom 25,000 periſhed, within the ſpace of two leagues, through the vain ambition of Kings, and the falſe glory of heroes. Both ſides chanted *Te Deum*, when they had much more reaſon to weep than rejoice. This war, however, was finiſhed by the treaty of Nimeguen, by which the Dutch recovered all their cities; but Spain gave up the French county, and a great part of Flanders, and the Emperor gave up Friburgh.

Lewis was now at the height of his greatneſs, and in France they gave him

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the ſurname of Grand. Colbert had put the marine in ſo flouriſhing a condition, that the King ordered him to make all the Spaniſh veſſels lower their flags. He had in pay 60,000 ſeamen, which, at that time, were more than either England or Holland could ſupport.

Lewis ſignalized his zeal for the Catholic religion, by giving the moſt mortal wound to calviniſm, in a manner that diſplays more ambition and weakneſs, than good ſenſe and ſound policy. From the taking of Rochelle, the Calviniſts, far from forming themſelves into factions, peaceably enjoyed their privileges, without diſquieting the government. The monarch did not fear them, and gained profit from their labours; but he was eaſily perſuaded, by the mean flatterers who ſurrounded him, that the glory and intereſt of his crown demanded the extinction of hereſy, which ought to yield to his will. Full of theſe flattering ideas, and ambitious of ſerving religion, notwithſtanding the cauſe of complaint he had againſt the Pope, he began to oppreſs the Proteſtants, reſtraining them more and more in their liberty, and very ſoon employed that violence, which but ill ſupplies the place of perſuaſion.

Miſſionaries

Miſſionaries ſent into the provinces, and money diſtributed to the converted, produced no very rapid effect. Troops were therefore ſent to inſpire them with terror, and theſe too eagerly executed their commiſſion. This rigour produced the contrary effect intended: it changed at once the zeal of the Calviniſts into enthuſiaſm. They looked on their country only as a new Babylon; and the more precautions were taken to prevent their flying from it, the more they believed themſelves obliged to break their fetters. At length, Lewis revoked the famous edict of Nantes, given by Henry IV and confirmed by Lewis XIII. Liberty of conſcience was denied the Proteſtants, their churches were demoliſhed and their children torn from the arms of their parents to be bred in the Catholic religion. They were forbidden going out of the kingdom, and guards in ſhoals covered the coaſt and frontiers; but neither the natural love of their country, the ties of blood, nor the intereſts of fortune, could ſtop theſe men who were influenced by the dictates of conſcience, and they deſerted by thouſands. Holland, England, and Germany, received them with open arms. They carried with them immenſe ſums

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of money, and, what was ſtill more valuable, their manufactures and induſtry, by which they enriched the kingdoms they fled to. In a few years France loſt above 60,000 of her moſt uſeful citizens, and thus the blind policy of Lewis empoveriſhed his kingdom, without obtaining the leaſt advantage in return, but that of ſatisfying his bigotted ambition.

The pride and power of Lewis created him almoſt as many enemies as there were princes in Europe. The moſt dangerous of all, whether from his ambition or profound policy, was William Prince of Orange, now deſpiſed by the French, becauſe he had been unfortunate in war; but they were very ſoon taught to know how great was the extent of his genius. He was the projector of the famous league, ſecretly formed at Augſburgh in 1686, and concluded at Venice the year following. The Emperor, and the greater part of the empire, the King of Spain Holland, the Duke of Savoy, and almoſt all Italy, united againſt France. Innocent XI. as proud as Lewis, ſeconded by his intrigues thoſe of the Dutch; a Pope and a Proteſtant were thus equally zealous to humble the moſt Chriſtian King.

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As ſoon as Lewis diſcovered their deſigns to attack him, he determined to give the firſt blow. He accordingly ſent the Dauphin to take Philipſbourg, which was the key of all Germany. "My ſon, (ſaid the King to him at his departure) in ſending you to command my armies, I give you an opportunity of diſplaying your credit to the world Go, and convince all Europe, that whenever I ſhall reſign my breath they will not have occaſion to miſs me." The Dauphin ſhewed himſelf worthy of his father's confidence, and acquired glory by the taking of Philipſbourg, which occaſioned public rejoicings throughout all France.

This was only the firſt ſpark of a war, which ſoon encreaſed to a flame. The revolution, which drove the Stuarts from the throne of England, completed the blaze. Charles II. had left the crown to James II. his brother, who was a Catholic, and conſequently odious to his people; ſtill the more ſo, as he believed himſelf abſolute, was deſirous of being ſo, and paid no reſpect to the paſſion of his nation for liberty. He concerted projects of re eſtabliſhing the Catholic religion, which the Engliſh were determined never to ſuffer, and the whole conduct

duct of James diſpoſed them to a revolt. The imprudence of his zeal was blamed by Rome; for the ſages foreſaw that he would himſelf be the victim of it, and that, ſo far from ſerving the church, he would for ever ruin it in England.

After uſeleſs complaints, the Engliſh invited the Prince of Orange to put himſelf at their head, to which he readily conſented. This matter was concerted with as much ſecrecy as prudence, and James, being taken by ſurprize, made but a feeble reſiſtance. Several officers abandoned him, and, among others, his favourite Churchill, who ſoon after immortalized himſelf under the name of the Duke of Marlborough. James was permitted to fly, and the Prince of Orange was declared king, by the title of William III.

Lewis now began an open war with England; and Holland and Spain declared againſt James. A conſiderable French fleet was ſoon got ready, which conducted James to Ireland. The French ſquadron, in 1690, defeated that of their enemy, who did not think proper to ſhew themſelves afterwards. Lewis XIV. who at the beginning of his reign had ſcarcely any ſhips, was now become ſo powerful,

powerful, that he preſerved the empire of the ſeas for two years. But all this aſſiſtance did not change the deſtiny of James II. and his former valour ſeemed to have forſaken him with his fortune. He was defeated by King William at the deciſive battle of the Boyne, and, returning to France, finiſhed his days ingloriouſly, but piouſly.

Germany, the Low Countries, and the frontiers of Spain and Italy, were all at once the theatre of war, of which it will be ſufficient to mention the principal events. The French had taken the Palatinate, one of the fineſt countries of the empire, where there remained no traces of the conflagration, executed by Turenne, to prevent the enemy's ſubſiſting there. Lewis followed the counſel of Louvois, in commanding a new conflagration: cities, villages, and caſtles, were ſet in flames with the moſt exceſſive rigour, and they ſhewed no reſpect even to the tombs of the Palatine electors. The ſoldiers opened them in hopes of finding gold, and ſcattered the aſhes, which were encloſed in them, in the wind. This dreadful expedition, however, was generally deteſted.

The Duke of Lorrain, Charles V. a prince without lands, but a formidable general, commanded the Imperialiſts. He retook Boſme and Mayenne, where the French glorioufly defended themſelves, though both places were badly fortified. After twenty-one attacks, the Marquis of Uxelles ſurrendered Mayenne for want of powder. He certainly was deſerving of commendation; but he was received in Paris with hooting in a full theatre. Such is often the injuſtice of a fickle people, who decide without examining, and who hang or admire without reaſon, not loſing their ridiculous prejudices, till after they have inſulted merit, or paid incenſe to fortune.

In the Low Countries and in Italy, the firſt years of the war were a continued ſeries of memorable victories; but Lewis at length, in ſpite of all his former conqueſts, no longer appeared invincible; he loſt fourteen large veſſels in 1692, after the battle of La Hogue, where Tourville, by his orders, attacked the enemy's fleet, now more numerous than the laſt. King William, although he was often defeated, knew admirably well how to repair his loſſes, and retook Namur, within ſight of an army of 80,000 men, without their being

being able to lend any aſſiſtance to the place. The Engliſh fleet bombarded Dieppe, Le Havre, St. Maloes, Calais, and Dunkirk. The courage of the French army diminiſhed, recruits became difficult, and the finances had been greatly reduced. The ſcourge of war was felt by the whole world, and peace ſeemed much deſired by the French monarch. By the peace of Ryſwick, which ſoon followed, the French gave up moſt of their conqueſts, William was acknowledged lawful king of England, and James II. was abandoned.

This peace was the occaſion of great diſcontent in France, where it appeared ſhameful that the king, who was accuſtomed to give law to nations, ſhould yield ſo many advantages to his enemies, notwithſtanding the ſuperiority of his arms.

The pride and inſolence of Lewis ſoon involved him in freſh troubles with other European powers. England and Holland united with the Emperor againſt France; and King William, though in a languiſhing and infirm ſtate of health, encouraged this alliance. William died, however, in the midſt of his preparations, having been a dangerous enemy to France, by his ge-

nius and policy in reſources, which were inexhauſtible. The princeſs Anne, his ſiſter-in-law, daughter of James II. and wife of the Prince of Denmark, ſucceeded him, and at firſt followed all his ſteps, becauſe they were conformable to the views of the nation. At this time, a terrible ſtorm from all parts ſeemed to threaten France.

The emperor's general, who began the war in Italy, was Prince Eugene of Savoy, born in France, ſon of the Count de Soiſſons, and of a niece of Cardinal Mazarin. He was known at court in his youth under the name of the Abbé de Savoy, and became ſo much forgotten, that when he quitted the kingdom in 1684, Lewis ſeemed to deſpiſe him, and the courtiers ſpoke of him as a madman, incapable of doing any thing. Never were prejudices more unjuſt, nor proved more falſe by actions. Prince Eugene, with all the qualities of a great man, could not fail of one day making thoſe repent, who had done him ſo much injuſtice.

The famous Duke of Marlborough commanded the Engliſh and Dutch troops. His ſublime talents, both in command and in negociations, made him much to be feared. Queen Anne, the Engliſh parliament

liament, and the States General, all entered into his views. He had the advantage of the campaign over the Duke of Burgundy and the Marſhal of Boufflers; the latter, one of the greateſt men of France.

The emperor would probably have been conquered, had not Marlborough and Eugene fled to his aſſiſtance. Theſe two generals attacked the French and Bavarian army at Blenheim, and totally defeated them. A body of 12,000 men, the beſt troops in France, were ſurrounded in a village, and obliged to ſurrender; and many other important places ſubmitted to the Duke and Eugene. At this period, the Engliſh alſo took Gibraltar, which was looked on as an impregnable place, and by that means opened the communication of the two ſeas.

The poverty of the French ſtate, and the miſery of its people, gradually encreaſed, and Lewis found himſelf under the cruel neceſſity of demanding peace, which was luckily promoted by intrigues carrying on in the court of London. The Ducheſs of Marlborough governed Queen Anne, while the duke governed the ſtate. The queen changed her favourite, and ſoon afterwards the miniſtry, when Marl-

borough loſt his credit and influence at court. At length, peace was concluded at Utrecht, when Philip V. renounced his claims to the crown of France; the Duke of Savoy had Sicily, and the title of king; Spaniſh Flanders was left to the emperor, and ſeveral cities were delivered to the Hollanders; England kept Gibraltar and the iſland of Minorca; and the French were obliged to demoliſh the port of Dunkirk, which had coſt them immenſe ſums. Such was the end of this unhappy war, which had reduced Lewis to the loweſt extremity.

The peace of Utrecht was concluded in 1713, and Lewis died two years afterwards, in September, 1715, having reigned ſeventy-two years. With reſpect to his character, it muſt be acknowledged, that though, in the beginning of his reign, France was torn by inteſtine diviſions, on account of the oppoſition made to the deſpotic power of Cardinal Mazarin, and though it was marked with one of the moſt impolitic meaſures that could have been adopted, the revocation of the edict of Nantes, yet, upon the whole, it conſtituted the moſt glorious period of the French hiſtory. The number of great men in every branch of civil and military

ſcience,

ſcience, rendered it illuſtrious, among whom the names of Turenne, Condé, and Colbert, muſt be recorded—the orators, poets, eminent writers and artiſts, as Boſſuet, Fenelon, Boileau, Corneille, Racine, Lebrun, and Pouſſin, the learned Madam Dacier, and the enchanting Sevigné—the protection and encouragement given to arts and ſciences, and to all perſons of diſtinguiſhed genius—all theſe circumſtances give ſome foundation for the compariſon that has been made between the age of Lewis XIV. in France, and that of Auguſtus in Rome. But, at the ſame time, it muſt be acknowledged, that the monarch, under whom all theſe advantages have been diſplayed, has been extolled with a degree of flattery, which is a diſgrace to ſcience, and which nothing but the moſt inexcuſable vanity in the prince could have ſuffered. This fault was, indeed, equally the cauſe of the great events, as of the defects of his reign; ſince, on the one hand it inſpired him with unbounded ambition, which rendered him the general diſturber of the tranquillity of Europe; and, on the other hand, prompted him to that liberal encouragement of ſcience, which contributed to bring forward and put into action thoſe great

great men, to whom the ſucceſs of his reign was really due. Even the glorious circumſtance of his fixing one of his own family upon the throne of Spain, was wholely owing to the refined policy and foreſight of Cardinal Mazarin, in completing the king's marriage, in 1660, with Maria Thereſa of Auſtria, the Infanta of Spain---a project, which he had formed fourteen years before, and which he carried into execution, notwithſtanding the variety of political intereſts he had to contend with, and the enmity at that time ſubſiſting between France and Spain. The latter part of his reign, however, was as diſgraceful as the former had been glorious, particularly in the wars carried on in Flanders againſt the Engliſh, who, under the command of the glorious Marlborough, were always victorious; ſo that for nine years Lewis experienced a continued ſeries of mortification and calamities. Theſe affected him ſo much, that, advanced as he was in years, he had formed the deſperate reſolution of collecting his forces, and dying at their head; but a change in the adminiſtration and ſyſtem of politics in England relieved his anxiety, and produced the peace of Utrecht.

LEWIS

## LEWIS XV.

Lewis XV. was left an orphan, at a time when it would have been too tedious, difficult, and dangerous, to aſſemble the general eſtates of the kingdom, to regulate the pretenſions made to the regency. The parliament of Paris had formerly given it to two queens; they gave it now to the Duke of Orleans. They had ſet aſide the teſtament of Lewis XIII. they now ſet aſide that of his ſucceſſor, Lewis XIV. Philip, Duke of Orleans, was declared abſolute maſter by the very parliament he ſoon after ſent into exile.

The regency of this Duke, which his ſecret enemies, and the general diſorder of the finances, might naturally have rendered the moſt factious and turbulent, proved, on the contrary, the moſt peaceable and happy. That habit of obedience, which the French nation had aſſumed under Lewis XIV. was at once the ſecurity of the regent, and of the public tranquillity. A conſpiracy, projected at a diſtance by Cardinal Alberoni, was ſuppreſſed almoſt as ſoon as formed. The parliament, which, in the minority of Lewis XIV. had raiſed a civil war about

about the diſpoſal of a dozen places in the court of requeſts, and had annulled the teſtaments of Lewis XIII. and XIV. with leſs formality than they would have done the will of an obſcure individual, had hardly the liberty of making remonſtrances when the nominal value of the coin was raiſed to thrice its former ſtandard. The moſt unjuſt edict that ever was made, that of reſtraining every inhabitant in the kingdom from keeping above five hundred livres in ready money by him at a time, excited not the leaſt emotion. The total want of current ſpecie for the uſe of the people—a whole people preſſing in crowds to an office, to receive the money neceſſary to procure the conveniences of life, in exchange for notes univerſally cried down, and yet univerſally diſtributed--the preſſing to death a number of citizens in the crowd, and the exhibition of their dead bodies before the royal palace, produced not the leaſt appearance of ſedition. In ſhort, even the famous project of *Law*, which ſeemed calculated at once to ruin the regency and the ſtate, was, in fact, the ſupport of both, and that by unforeſeen conſequences.

The ſpirit of avarice, which it excited among perſons of all conditions, even

even from the very loweſt of the people up to magiſtrates, biſhops, and princes, diverted their minds from all attention to public good, or the political views of ambition, by engroſſing them wholely with the fear of loſs and the hope of gain. It was a new and extraordinary kind of play, in which the people were engaged againſt each other, and enriched many families at the expence of others, whom it reduced to beggary. The origin of this phrenzy, preceded and followed by ſo many others, was ſimply this: A Scotchman, named John Law, a man who had no other profeſſion than that of a gameſter and calculator of chances, having been obliged to fly his country for murder, had long ſince formed a plan of a company, which might pay off the debts of the ſtate by notes, and reimburſe itſelf by its profits. The French nation had a debt of two hundred millions to diſcharge, the peace had left the government at leiſure, and both prince and people were fond of novelties.

In 1716, Law eſtabliſhed a bank in his own name, which ſoon becoming general, he united it with the Miſſiſippi company, from whoſe commerce, at that time, people were given to expect great advantages.

advantages. Seduced by the allurements of gain, the public bought up the joint ſtock of the company and bank with great avidity. The wealth of the kingdom, which had long been confined in private hands, in diſtruſt of public credit, now circulated in great profuſion.

The bank was declared royal in 1718, and took upon it the management of the trade to Senegal. Every thing was now in the hands of the Scotchman, and the finances of the whole kingdom depended on a trading company. This company appeared, indeed, to be eſtabliſhed on ſuch vaſt foundations, that a ſhare in its ſtock roſe to above twenty times its original value. The frequent riſe and fall of the company's ſtocks, afforded an opportunity for obſcure perſons to make immenſe fortunes, many of them becoming, in a few months, richer than ſeveral princes.

The regent, however, ſoon found himſelf incapable of managing ſo immenſe and complicated a machine, the rapidity of whoſe motion bore it away, and rendered it abſolutely ungovernable. The late financiers, and the great bankers in conjunction, exhauſted the royal bank, by drawing on it for conſiderable ſums.

Every

Every one wanted to convert his notes into ſpecie, but the diſproportion was enormous, and public credit dropped all at once.

In 1720, the æra of the ruin of all the private fortunes of individuals, and of the finances of the kingdom, Law was appointed comptroller general of the finances; and, in a ſhort time after, he was converted from a Scotchman into a Frenchman by naturalization; from a proteſtant into a catholic; from a mere adventurer into a lord poſſeſſed of the fineſt landed eſtate in the kingdom, and from a banker into a miniſter of ſtate. At laſt, loaded with the public execrations, he was the ſame year obliged to fly the country he had attempted to enrich, but had entirely ruined, taking with him only about two thouſand pounds ſterling. He lived ſome time in London on the liberality of the Marquis de Laſſay, and at laſt died at Venice, in a ſtate little removed from indigence.

In the year 1723, the Duke of Orleans took on himſelf the title of prime miniſter, becauſe the king, being now come of age, the regency was at an end. However, he died ſoon after, as did the Duke of Bourbon. Condé immediately ſucceeded to the miniſtry;

ſtry; but he was ſoon obliged to make way to Cardinal Fleury, who, at the age of ſeventy-three, took upon him the care of government. For ſixteen years, during the time of his adminiſtration, every thing proſpered with him, ſtill preſerving, to almoſt ninety years of age, a clear head, and an unimpaired capacity for buſineſs.

Political affairs returned inſenſibly to their natural channel. Happily for Europe, the firſt miniſter in England, Sir Robert Walpole, was of a peaceable character, and contributed, with Fleury, to maintain that repoſe, which almoſt all Europe enjoyed from the peace of Utrecht to the year 1733. This was a happy interval for all the European nations, who, cultivating arts and commerce with emulation, ſoon forgot all their paſt calamities.

After the happy æra of the peace of Utrecht, the Engliſh, who occupied Minorca and Gibraltar, obtained ſeveral privileges from the court of Madrid, which the French, its defenders, did not enjoy. The Engliſh merchants purchaſed negroes on the coaſt of Africa, and diſpoſed of them, to great advantage, to the Spaniſh colonies in America; but the greateſt advantage granted to the Engliſh, excluſive of

of other nations, was the permiſſion, which the Engliſh company enjoyed from 1716, to ſend a veſſel to Porto Bello. This veſſel, which at firſt was reſtrained to five hundred tons, was by agreement, the next year, allowed to carry eight hundred and fifty; but, by fraudulent practices, it amounted to upwards of a thouſand, and her cargo valued at about two millions.

In the year 1739, one Jenkins, maſter of a veſſel that traded to the Spaniſh main, preſented himſelf at the bar of the Engliſh houſe of commons. He was a plain honeſt man; who had never been concerned in any illicit trade; but had been met by a Spaniſh guarda-coſta in ſome part of America that was prohibited to the Engliſh. The Spaniſh captain ſeized the ſhip, put the crew in irons, ſlit the noſe, and cut off the ears of the maſter. In this condition Capt. Jenkins appeared before the parliament, and informed them of his misfortune with that ſimplicity and openneſs, which is peculiar to a ſailor: "Gentlemen, (ſaid he) when they had thus disfigured me, I was threatened with death: I expected it, and recommended my ſoul to God, and my revenge to my country." Theſe words, ex preſſed ſo naturally, excited a general cry of com-

paſſion and indignation; the people of London inſiſted upon having *a free ſea or a war.*" There never was, perhaps (ſays Voltaire) more real rhetoric made uſe of than at this time in the Engliſh parliament; and I do not know, whether the premeditated harangues of the Athenians or Romans, on ſimilar occaſions, could ſurpaſs the unpremeditated ſpeeches of Sir William Wyndham, Lord Carteret, Sir Robert Walpole, and Mr. Pulteney, afterwards Earl of Bath."

Accordingly, about the end of the year 1739, war was formally declared againſt Spain. France, whoſe navy was far from being on a reſpectable footing, did not act openly, but privately aſſiſted the Spaniards as much as lay in their power.

Such was the ſituation of affairs, when the death of Charles VI. gave riſe to freſh troubles in Europe, and brought forward new ſcenes of deſolation, in ſettling the ſucceſſion of the houſe of Auſtria. In 1741, the Spaniſh court ſent over ſeveral bodies of troops to Italy, under the command of the Duke of Montemar. The court of Spain demanded a paſſage for their troops through Switzerland into Italy, which was refuſed. The Swiſs cantons ſell ſoldiers to all parties, and defend their

country

country againſt all; and though their government is pacific, the people are all warriors, which rendered ſuch a neutrality reſpectable.

Several ſtruggles were made on all ſides, and in the midſt of them Lewis XV. declared war againſt the king of England and the queen of Hungary. Don Philip, at the head of 20,000 Spaniards, and the Prince of Conti, followed by 20,000 Frenchmen, ſeverally inſpired their troops with that ſpirit of confidence, and of reſolute courage, which were neceſſary for penetrating into Piedmont, where one battalion may ſtop a whole army; where they are expoſed every moment to fight among rocks, precipices, and torrents, and where the difficulties of convoys reaching them was none of the ſmalleſt they had to encounter.

On the firſt of April, 1744, the Infant Don Philip, and the Prince of Conti, paſſed the river Varo, which falls from the Alps into the ſea of Genoa, before Nice. The whole country of Nice ſurrendered; but, before they could advance further, they were obliged to attack the intrenchments near Villa Franca, and after them the fortreſs of Montalban, ſituated among the rocks, which formed a long chain of

almoſt inacceſſible ramparts. They could not march but in defiles, and through hollow ways, where they were expoſed to the artillery of the enemy, which annoyed them alſo when clambering from rock to rock. Notwithſtanding theſe dangers, the Prince of Conti preſented himſelf before the rampart of Piedmont, near Villa Franca. This was about two hundred toiſes in height, and was thought by the king of Sardinia to be inacceſſible.

The bailiff of Givri, in open day, ſcaled a rock, on which two thouſand Piedmonteſe were entrenched; and the brave Chevert, who was the firſt that mounted the rampart at the ſiege of Prague, was among the foremoſt who reached the top. This ſcene, however, was more bloody than that of Prague, as the enemy had there no cannon; but here the Piedmonteſe kept playing theirs conſtantly upon the aſſailants. The king of Sardinia was in perſon behind theſe intrenchments endeavouring to animate his troops. Lieutenant-colonel de Poiſou leaped into the firſt entrenchment, where he was followed by the grenadiers; and, what is hardly credible, they paſſed cloſe by the embraſures of the enemy's cannon, at the inſtant that the pieces being fired

were running back with their uſual motion. They loſt about two thouſand men in this aſſault, but not one of the Piedmonteſe eſcaped. The king of Sardinia, in deſpair, wanted to throw himſelf into the midſt of the aſſailants, and they kept him back with much difficulty.

During the attack on Chateau-dauphin, it was found neceſſary to carry what was called the Barricades, a paſſage about eighteen feet broad, between two mountains, which reached the clouds. Into this hollow the king of Sardinia had turned the courſe of the river Sture, which watered the neighbouring valley. Three entrenchments, and a covered way beyond the river, defended the poſt of the barricades. After this, they had to reduce the caſtle of Pemont, built at an immenſe expence on the top of a barren rock, in the middle of the valley of Sture. The French and Spaniards carried them almoſt without ſtriking a blow, by putting thoſe who defended them between two fires.

While matters were thus tranſacting in Italy, the war was carried on in Germany, where the famous battle of Dettingen was loſt by the French, through the effects of two much ardour and want

of

of diſcipline. This was followed by the ſiege of Tournay, and the battle of Fontenoy; but as theſe matters are ſufficiently related in the Hiſtory of England, we ſhall here paſs them over.

We ſhall now quit the tranſactions on the continent, to ſee what was paſſing on the wide ocean. The Engliſh fleet took Louiſbourg in America from the French, whoſe Eaſt India company was thereby conſiderably injured, as they had undertaken to farm the fur-trade of Canada; ſo that their ſhips, on their return from India, often came and watered at Louiſbourg. Two large ſhips belonging to the company arrived there immediately after it was taken, and conſequently fell into the hands of the Engliſh. This was not all—a fatality, not leſs ſingular, further enriched the new poſſeſſors of Cape Breton—a large ſhip, named L'Eſperance, which had eſcaped the privateers, thought, like the others, that ſhe ſhould be ſafe in the harbour of Louiſbourg, where, like the reſt, ſhe fell a victim to the Engliſh. The lading of theſe three ſhips, which came from the heart of Aſia only to ſurrender themſelves in this manner, amounted to 25,000,000 of livres. If war be allowed to be a game of chance,

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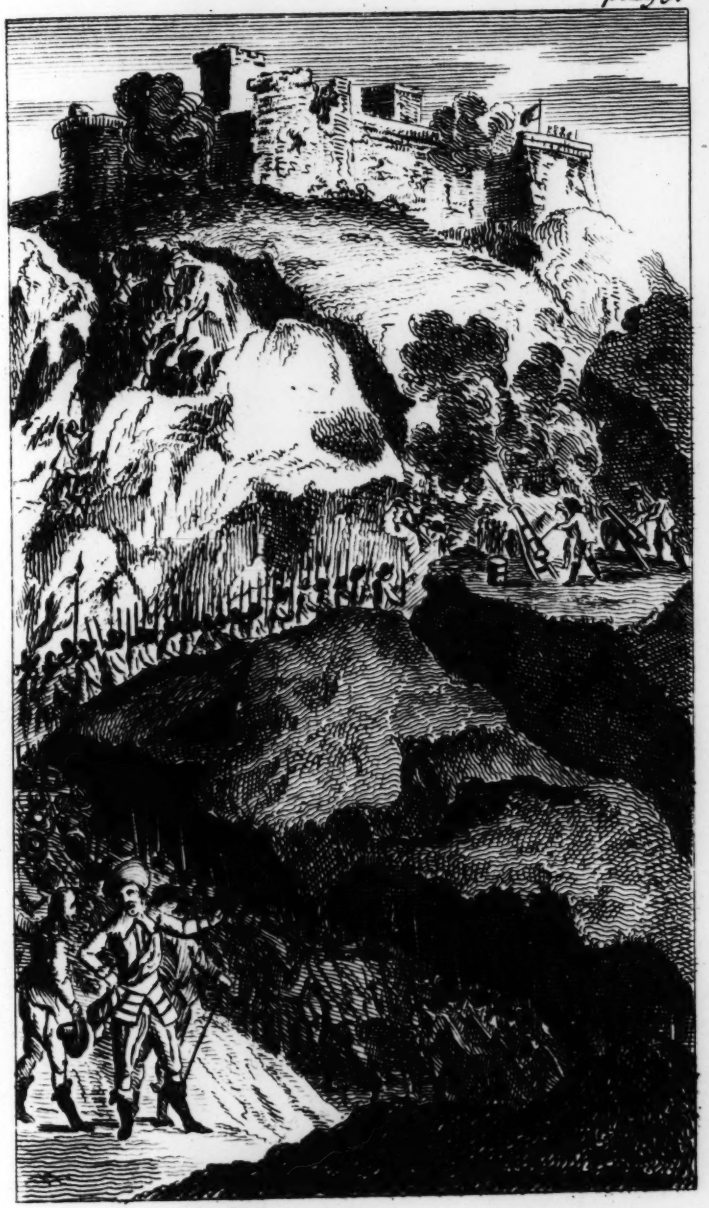

*Conti forcing the Passage of the Alps*

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we may ſay that the Engliſh, in one year, won at this game about three millions ſterling.

France was now obliged to act on the defenſive at ſea during the whole war, having but a ſmall fleet to oppoſe one very formidable. It became every day more difficult to ſupport the colonies; for if large ſupplies were not ſent to them, they remained entirely at the mercy of the Engliſh fleets. If the convoys ſet ſail from France, or from the iſlands, they ran the riſk of being taken with the ſhips that eſcorted them. In fact, the French ſuffered the moſt terrible loſſes; for a fleet of merchantmen, coming to France from Martinico, convoyed by four men of war, was met by an Engliſh fleet; thirty of the merchant ſhips were taken, ſunk, or run aſhore, and two of the men of war, one of which was an eighty-gun ſhip, fell into the hands of the enemy.

One of the moſt ſignal advantages gained by the Engliſh was the engagement off Cape Finiſterre, in which they took ſix of the king's large ſhips, and ſeven belonging to the Eaſt-India company, armed like men of war, four of which ſtruck during the engagement, and the three others afterwards.

" London

"London is full of merchants and ſea-faring men, (ſays Voltaire) who intereſt themſelves much more in ſucceſſes at ſea, than in all that paſſes in Germany or Flanders. The tranſports of joy were unparalleled in that city, when the ſame ſhip Centurion, which had been ſo celebrated for ſailing round the world, arrived in the Thames, and brought the news of the victory off Finiſterre, gained by the ſame Anſon, (who, with great juſtice had been made a vice-admiral) in conjunction with Admiral Warren." Twenty-two waggons arrived in London ſoon after with the gold, ſilver, and other effects, taken from the French fleet. The loſs of theſe effects, together with the ſhips, was eſtimated at more than twenty millions of French livres.

France at this time, 1747, as Voltaire informs us, had but *one* man of war remaining; and the miſmanagement of Cardinal Fleury, in neglecting the marine, was acknowledged in its fulleſt extent. This fault is not eaſily repaired: ſometimes an excellent land army has been formed in two or three years by experienced and aſſiduous officers; but it takes a long time to eſtabliſh a formidable maritime force.

*In*

In the flow and ebb of loſſes and ſucceſſes, almoſt common in every war, Lewis XV. continued to be victorious in the Low Countries. But what France gained on one ſide was loſt on the other: its colonies were expoſed, its commerce ruined, and its navy deſtroyed. As all the contending nations were ſufferers, ſo all of them ſtood in need of a peace, as it happened in former wars. Near ſeven thouſand trading veſſels, belonging to France, Spain, England, and Holland, had been taken in the courſe of their reciprocal depredations: from whence it may be concluded, that above fifty thouſand families had ſuſtained conſiderable loſſes. Additional to theſe misfortunes was the vaſt number of ſlain, and the difficulty of raiſing recruits, which happens in every war.

In 1748, the peace of Aix-la-chapelle was concluded, when France re-eſtabliſhed itſelf in the ſame manner as after the peace of Utrecht, and became ſtill more flouriſhing. Lewis XIV. was the firſt who kept up thoſe numerous forces, which obliged the other princes to make the ſame efforts: ſo that, after this period, the chriſtian powers of Europe had about a million of men under arms, perhaps to the

the detriment of arts and neceſſary profeſſions, but particularly to agriculture. They flattered themſelves that, for a long time, there would be no aggreſſor, becauſe all the ſtates were armed to defend themſelves; but they flattered themſelves in vain.

Europe never enjoyed ſuch happy times as from the peace of Aix-la-chapelle in 1748, to about the year 1755. Trade flouriſhed from Peterſburgh even to Cadiz, the fine arts were every where reſpected, a general harmony prevailed among all nations, and Europe reſembled a large family reconciled after a quarrel. A ſlight diſpute, however, between France and England, concerning ſome deſert lands about Nova Scotia, gave riſe to a new ſyſtem of politics among all the ſovereigns of Europe. This quarrel was the fruit of the negligence of all the miniſters at the treaty of Utrecht. By that treaty, France had ceded to England, Nova Scotia, adjoining to Canada, with all its ancient limits; but they had not ſpecified what were thoſe limits, to which indeed they were ſtrangers. Were philoſophy and juſtice to meddle in the quarrels of men, they would make people ſee, that the French and Engliſh diſputed for

for a country over which they had not the ſmalleſt right; but thoſe firſt principles never enter into the affairs of the world. A ſimilar diſpute among common merchants would have been adjuſted in two hours by arbitrators; but, among crowned heads, the ambition or caprice of one commiſſary is ſufficient to overthrow twenty ſtates.

Hoſtilities ſoon commenced in America; and, in Europe, the French laid ſiege to and took the iſland of Minorca, notwithſtanding Admiral Byng was ſent to relieve it; but this was the laſt of the French ſucceſſes againſt England, if we except ſome few advantages gained in Germany.

The firſt loſs of the French in India was that of Chandanagor, an important poſt, of which the French India company were in poſſeſſion, towards the mouth of the Ganges, from whence they drew their beſt merchandize; and after this capture, the Engliſh never ceaſed ruining the commerce of the French in India. The government of the emperor was ſo weak and bad, that he could not prevent the European merchants from making leagues and wars in his own kingdom. The Engliſh had even the

boldneſs to attack Surat, one of the towns in India, and greateſt place of traffic belonging to the emperor. They took it, pillaged it, and deſtroyed the French factories, and gained immenſe riches, while the court of the grand mogul, as weak as it was pompous, made no attempt to reſent this outrage.

In ſhort, nothing was left the French, in this part of the world, but the regret of having expended, in the ſpace of ſixty years and upwards, immenſe ſums to ſupport a company, who had never made the leaſt gain, and who had paid nothing to the proprietors and their creditors from their commercial profit.

At the ſame time that the fleets and armies of England had thus ruined the French in Aſia, they alſo drove them out of Africa. The French were maſters of the river Senegal, which is a branch of the Niger. There they had forts, and carried on a great trade in elephants teeth, gold duſt, gum arabic, ambergreaſe, and particularly a traffic of negroes, which are ſometimes ſold by princes as if they were cattle, and who often ſell their own children, and frequently themſelves, to ſerve the Europeans in America. The Engliſh took all the forts the French had built

built in thoſe countries, and more than three millions of livres value, in the richeſt commodities. The laſt eſtabliſhment that remained in the poſſeſſion of the French in Africa was Goree, which ſurrendered at diſcretion. Thus they loſt all footing in that quarter of the world.

In America, they had ſuſtained much greater loſſes. Without entering here into the detail of an hundred ſkirmiſhes, and the loſs of all their forts, one after the other, let it ſuffice to ſay, that Louiſbourg was a ſecond time taken by the Engliſh. Laſtly, at the very time that the Engliſh entered Surat at the mouth of the Indus, they took alſo Quebec, and all Canada, to the bottom of North America; and thoſe troops, which had ventured a battle in the defence of Quebec, were beaten, and almoſt deſtroyed, in ſpite of the efforts of General Montcalm, who was killed in the engagement, and much regretted in France Thus one thouſand five hundred leagues of land were, in one day, loſt to France.

This immenſe tract of land, three parts of which were frozen deſarts, was not perhaps any real loſs to France; for Canada coſt them a great deal, and remitted them a very little. If the tenth part of

the money thrown away upon this colony had been employed to cultivate the waſte lands in France, it would have been of conſiderable advantage to them; but, as they were fond of keeping Canada, they had one hundred years of trouble, and all the money ſquandered, without any return.

To complete the misfortune, almoſt all thoſe who had been employed in the king's name in this colony, were accuſed of the moſt horrible frauds, and they were ſent to the Chatelet at Paris, during the time that the parliament were proceeding againſt Lally, who had been unfortunate in the Eaſt Indies. Lally, after having an hundred times expoſed his life, loſt it by the hands of the executioner; while the Canadian extortioners were obliged only to make reſtitution, and were fined. Such is the difference in the deciſion of affairs, which, to appearance, are the ſame.

At the time that the Engliſh thus attacked the French on the continent, they alſo diſlodged them from moſt of the iſlands. Guadaloupe, though ſmall yet flouriſhing, and where the fineſt ſugars are manufactured, fell into their hands without a ſtroke in its defence. They

alſo

alſo took Martinico, which was the richeſt and beſt colony the French poſſeſſed.

France could not ſuffer theſe great diſaſters, without loſing likewiſe all the ſhips which they ſent to prevent them. Scarce was there a fleet ſent out to ſea, but it was either taken or deſtroyed. They built armed veſſels with the greateſt hurry, and they worked for the Engliſh, to whom they ſoon became a prey.

The French endeavoured to revenge ſuch a ſucceſſion of loſſes by premeditating a deſcent in Ireland. It coſt them an immenſe ſum for this abortive undertaking; for as ſoon as the fleet deſtined for this deſcent was ſailed from Breſt, it was either diſperſed or taken, or loſt in the mud of the river Vilaine, upon which they had in vain ſought a refuge. Laſtly, the Engliſh took Belleiſle, in ſight of the French, who could not ſuccour it.

Affairs were in this deplorable condition both by ſea and land, when a man of an active and bold genius, but prudent, having views as great as thoſe of Marſhal Belleiſle, but with more ſpirit, obſerved that France could not alone repair ſo many enormous loſſes. He found means to engage Spain to ſupport the quarrel, by making it the common cauſe

of all the branches of the houſe of Bourbon. By theſe means, Spain and Auſtria were joined with France in the ſame intereſt. Portugal being, in effect, an Engliſh province, from which ſhe drew fifteen millions yearly; the Spaniards thought it neceſſary to begin at this corner, and it was determined by Don Carlos, king of Spain, (by the death of his brother Ferdinand) to enter that kingdom. This was perhaps one of the beſt ſchemes in politics, of which modern hiſtory makes mention; but even this did not ſucceed, for the Engliſh repulſed the Spaniards, and ſaved Portugal.

Under Philip II. Spain alone conquered all Europe; bnt now, though joined to the French, could do nothing with England. Count de la Lippe Schombourg, a Weſtphalian lord, quite a youth, and who until then had never had a command, and had even ſcarcely been in the ſervice, being ſent to the ſuccour of Portugal by the king of England, at the head of ſome Hanoverians and a few Engliſh, always drove the Spaniards back to their frontiers; and an Engliſh fleet made them pay dear in America for their tardy declaration in favour of France.

The

The Havannah, built upon the north coaſt of Cuba, the greateſt American iſland, at the gulf of Mexico, is the rendezvous of this new world. The harbour, as large as it was ſecure, could contain one thouſand veſſels; and it was defended by three forts, which commanded a croſs fire, and rendered the landing impoſſible to enemies. The Earl of Albemarle and Admiral Pocock attacked the iſland, but took great care of approaching the forts. They deſcended upon a diſant flat ſhore, which was imagined impoſſible to be landed on. The moſt conſiderable part of the iſland they beſieged by land, which they took, and forced the town, the forts, and all the adjacent iſlands, to ſurrender, with twelve ſhips of war which were in the port, and twenty-ſeven veſſels laden with treaſure. They found in the town twenty-four millions of livres in ſpecie, which was divided between the conquerors, who ſet aſide the ſixteenth part of this booty for the poor. It has been remarked, that in this and the preceding war, Spain loſt more than they had drawn from America during the ſpace of twenty years.

The Engliſh, not content with having taken the Havannah in the Mexican ſea, and

and the iſland of Cuba, extended their conqueſts to the Philippine iſlands in the Indian ſea, which are very near the antipodes of Cuba. Theſe iſlands are not much leſs than thoſe of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and would be richer, if they were well managed, one of them having gold mines, and their coaſts producing pearls. The great Acapulco veſſel, loaded to the value of three millions of piaſtres, arrived at Manilla, the capital, which the Engliſh took with the iſles and this ſhip, notwithſtanding the aſſurances given by the jeſuit, in the name of St. Potamienne, (the patron of the town) that Manilla would never be taken.

Thus the war, which impoveriſhed other nations, enriched one part of England, while the other groaned under the weight of the moſt rigorous taxes, as well as all other nations engaged in the war. The French were at this time more unfortunate, all their reſources being exhauſted. Almoſt all the citizens, by the king's example, converted their plate into money; and the principal towns, as well as ſome ſocieties, agreed to furniſh men of war at their own expence. Theſe ſhips, however, were not yet built, and, had

had they been ready, there were not ſeamen ſufficient to man them.

In this diſaſtrous ſituation, which diſcouraged all orders of the kingdom, the Duke de Praſlin, then miniſter of foreign affairs, was ingenious and happy enough to conclude a peace, the negociation for which had been ſet on foot by the Duke de Choiſeul, miniſter of the war department.

The king of France exchanged Minorca for Belleiſle, which the Engliſh reſtored to the French, who loſt all Canada, with Louiſbourg, which had coſt ſo much money and pains only to be ſo often a prey to the Engliſh. All the land, upon the left of the great river Miſſiſippi, was ceded to them. Spain, to complete their conqueſts, alſo gave them Florida. Thus, from the twenty-fifth degree to the pole, almoſt all was in the poſſeſſion of the Engliſh, who divided the American hemiſphere with the Spaniards. The ſmall iſland of St. Vincent, the Grenades, Tobago, and Dominica, were likewiſe gained by them.

France could obtain only, and that with great difficulty, the right of fiſhing towards Newfoundland, and a little uncultivated iſland, named Miquelon, to dry their

their cod-fiſh, under the reſtriction of not making the leaſt eſtabliſhment--a pitiful right, always ſubject to encroachments.

The French were alſo excluded in the Indies from her eſtabliſhment upon the Ganges. She ceded her poſſeſſions at Senegal in Africa, and was obliged to demoliſh the fortifications at Dunkirk on the ſea ſide. This was called the peace of Fontainbleau, which was ſigned in 1763.

France loſt, in the courſe of this horrible war, a great part of the flower of its youth, more than half of the current money of the kingdom, its navy, commerce, and credit. It was believed, that it would have been very eaſy to prevent all theſe misfortunes, by giving up to the Engliſh a little piece of litigated ground towards Canada. But ſome ambitious perſons, to make themſelves neceſſary and important, plunged France into this fatal war: the ſelfiſhneſs of two or three individuals is ſufficient to deſolate all Europe. France had ſo preſſing an occaſion for this peace, that they conſidered the concluders of it as the ſaviours of their country. The national debt was greater than that of Lewis XIV. for the extraordinary expences

pences of this war amounted, in one year, to four hundred millions.

We muſt now return back a few years, to take notice of an incident by no means a novelty in the hiſtory of France. On the 5th of January, 1757, the king was ſtabbed in the court of Verſailles, in the preſence of his ſon, and in the midſt of his guards and the great officers of the crown. A miſerable wretch, named Robert François Damiens, born in a village near Arras, had been a conſiderable time a ſervant in ſeveral houſes in Paris: he was a man, whoſe gloomy and fiery diſpoſition had always bordered upon madneſs. The general murmurs he had heard in all public places, in the grand hall of the palace, and elſewhere, heated his imagination. He went to Verſailles like a diſtracted perſon, and in thoſe agitations, which his ſtrange deſign threw him into, he deſired at his inn to be blooded. Phyſic has ſo great an influence over the minds of men, that he proteſted afterwards, in his interrogatories, that if his requeſt had been complied with (that of bleeding) he ſhould not have committed the crime.

The aſſaſſin was furniſhed with a ſpring knife, at one end carrying a long ſharp-pointed blade, and at the other, a pen-

knife,

knife about four inches in length. He waited for the moment when the king ſhould ſtep into his coach to go to Trianon. It was near ſix in the evening, quite duſky, and exceedingly cold. Almoſt all the courtiers wore cloaks, which, by corruption, were called redingottes. Damiens, thus dreſſed, proceeded towards the guards, and in paſſing run againſt the dauphin; he then forced his way through the body guards and one hundred Swiſs, accoſted the king, and ſtabbed him with the penknife in the fifth rib; he then put his knife into his pocket again, and remained with his hat upon his head. The king, finding himſelf wounded, turned about, and ſeeing this ſtranger who was covered, and whoſe eyes ſtared wildly, he ſaid, "This is the man who ſtabbed me, arreſt him, but do him no harm."

Happily, the king's wound was but ſlight, but the general alarm was great, and fears, ſuſpicions, and intrigues, multiplied at court. This unfortunate man was no more than a fooliſh fanatic; leſs abominable, in fact, than Ravillac and John Chatel, but more mad, and having no more accomplices than thoſe two furies had. The common accomplices

of

of theſe monſters are fanatics, whoſe heated brains light up, without knowing it, a fire in weak, deſperate, hardened minds. A few words, dropped by chance, are ſufficient to ſet them in flames. Damiens acted under the ſame illuſion as Ravillac, and died in the ſame torments.

But, to return from this digreſſion, it is a fact, now too well known to be diſputed, that France was reduced to ſuch a deplorable ſituation, towards the cloſe of the year 1762, that it was no longer in the power of her allies to extricate her from the innumerable diſtreſſes that ſurrounded her, both at home and abroad. Many circumſtances contributed to determine the Duke de Choiſeul, an able ſtateſman, to purchaſe an interval of repoſe to his bleeding country, at the expence even of the moſt valuable ſacrifices.

A general diſlike to the ſervice manifeſted itſelf in every department, civil and military. Officers and magiſtrates employed under the government, in its remote dependencies, oppreſſed and plundered the people, but paid no regard to the public ſecurity of the countries over which they preſided. A ſpirit of oppoſition to the meaſures of adminiſtration,

chiefly owing to the misfortunes of the war, prevailed at home, and the difficulty of raiſing money for the public ſervice encreaſed every hour. The moſt honourable offices were publicly refuſed, and no man of abilities could be found to undertake the conduct of the future operations of the war. Add to this, the expiring influence of the Jeſuits, which was exerted with redoubled force on the eve of its total extinction: actuated by the infernal principles of revenge, they ſecretly thwarted the deſigns of an adverſe court, and ſtirred up the people to complain bitterly of the weight of taxes, the extorſions of the farmers-general, and the univerſal mal-adminiſtration of public affairs. In ſhort, ſcarcely was the peace ſigned, when, notwithſtanding the almoſt frantic joy it occaſioned throughout the kingdom, a moſt formidable oppoſition to the court broke forth; and even the officers of juſtice, under an immediate dependance on the crown, refuſed to regiſter the king's edict, in the parliament of Paris, for continuing ſome taxes, (which ſhould have been aboliſhed at the end of the war) for impoſing new ones, and for veſting a power in the king to redeem the public debts at twenty years purchaſe.

purchaſe. The example of the parliament of Paris was followed by almoſt all the parliaments of France, whoſe remonſtrances, upon this occaſion, would do honour to the moſt diſtinguiſhed patriots, in the freeſt conſtitutions of any civil government upon earth.

As the latent ſeeds of the internal commotions had undoubtedly haſtened the negociations for peace, ſo now their maturity ſerved to guarantee the powers of Europe from any hoſtile deſigns of the court of France, for ſome years at leaſt; but they produced no change in favour of the people, as the parliaments, after repeated ſtruggles in defence of their violated rights, in which they went ſo far as to proceed againſt their governors as public criminals, were at length obliged to ſubmit to thoſe irreſiſtible miniſters of deſpotiſm—the military.

We are now brought, by the courſe of time, to a domeſtic event of another nature, from which as great revolutions were expected in the internal government of France, as if a new monarch had aſcended the throne, the death of the king's favourite miſtreſs and prime miniſter, which happened in April, 1764, in the forty-third year of her age.

It has often been the fate of France to be governed, for a long ſeries of years, by the miſtreſſes of its kings: the uncontroulable influence of Madame Pompadour laſted upwards of twenty years, during which time various attempts were made to ruin her; and, though perſons of the higheſt rank, and of the moſt diſtinguiſhed merit in the kingdom, frequently engaged in well concerted plans to remove her from court, yet it always ended in the diſgrace, and ſometimes in the puniſhment, of the authors of them.

As the king was far advanced in life, being in the fifty-fourth year of his age, when he loſt his beloved miſtreſs, it was reaſonably concluded, that the future glory of France would ſolely occupy his thoughts, and that the remainder of his life would be chiefly devoted to public buſineſs; but this flattering proſpect ſoon vaniſhed, when it was found that the king continued in his ſervice, and gave his confidence to, the minions and tools of that extraordinary woman.

In the year 65, a domeſtic event interrupted the uſual gaiety of the court of Verſailles, and involved the whole kingdom in a deep and univerſal ſorrow: the Dauphin of France, father of the preſent king,

king, died at Fontainbleau, December 20th, in the thirty-ſeventh year of his age, leaving the character of a good-natured man, too much attached indeed to the prieſthood, and particularly to the Jeſuits, whoſe ſociety, it is conjectured, he would have reſtored in France had he lived to aſcend the throne; but the moral tenour of his conduct gave the people room to hope, that they ſhould be freed at leaſt from the capricious government of lewd women. The care he took of the education of his children, and particularly his endeavours to preſerve them from pride and arrogance, with which the minds of young princes are too early tainted, does honour to his memory. It is related of him, that he made his children look over the baptiſmal regiſters in which their names are entered, by the cuſtom of France, indiſcriminately with others, and that he made the following remark to his ſons: "Behold your names intermixed, without diſtinction, with thoſe of the children of the poor and needy. Religion and nature place all men upon a level; virtue alone can make any eſſential diſtinction between them, and perhaps the child, whoſe name precedes each of yours in this re-

giſter, will be greater in the ſight of God, than you will ever be in the eyes of the people of France." At another time, he ordered them to be carried to the cottage of a poor peaſant: "I will (ſaid he) have them ſee the black bread they eat; I inſiſt on their handling the ſtraw that ſerves the poor for a bed. Learn them to weep, (ſaid he to their governor) for a prince who has never ſhed tears can never make a good king." It has been ſuggeſted, that he was too good to live; but as his public capacity for government was not ſo diſtinguiſhable as his private virtues, it cannot be imagined there was any political neceſſity to cut him off; though, in countries where Machiavelian politics prevail, the life of a prince is more precarious than that of a peaſant.

In June, 1769, the queen died, after a lingering illneſs, univerſally regretted by all ranks of people throughout the kingdom of France. Her moſt amiable diſpoſition, and pious reſignation to the will of Providence, had been manifeſtly diſplayed, under one of the moſt mortifying circumſtances in life, that of beholding her royal conſort a conſtant dupe to his laſcivious deſires, and placing all his confidence

fidence in, as well as dedicating all his leiſure time to, an artful and ambitious miſtreſs.

One circumſtance made this loſs yet more deeply felt. It had been obſerved, that the king ſtill permitted his ruling paſſion to get the better of his reaſon; but as he was now in the decline of life, decency prevented him from openly taking to his court any new miſtreſs while the queen lived. However, ſhe was hardly buried, when the vile flatterers of a voluptuous prince put every ſtratagem in force to fix a patroneſs for themſelves in the palace of Verſailles, in which, to the diſgrace of their royal maſter, they ſucceeded, even beyond their expectations. This favourite was Madam Barré, who, under the direction of the infamous Duke d'Aiguillon and the Chancellor Maripau, ſecretly regulated all the motions of the infatuated monarch, and whom we may not improperly ſtile the curſe of France.

On the 19th of May, 1770, the nuptials of the preſent king and queen of France were ſolemnized at the royal chapel of Verſailles, and during the rejoicings upon this happy and important event, all animoſities and internal troubles ſeemed to have been totally forgotten, ſuch was the general

general ſatisfaction expreſſed by all ranks of people, on account of this union of the ancient rival houſes of Bourbon and Auſtria; but a dreadful cataſtrophe moſt unexpectedly put an end to the gaiety and good humour which had reigned in Paris, from the time of the arrival of the dauphineſs in France.

The greateſt preparations had been made for exhibiting ſuperb fire-works in the ſquare of Lewis XV. in honour of this marriage, under the direction of a very able engineer; but a very great overſight had been committed, for the place was not ſufficiently ſpacious for the execution of the extenſive deſign. This had been mentioned to the engineer; but it was too late to rectify the fatal error. The exhibition had been put off ſeveral times on account of the weather, the people grew impatient at the delay, and therefore, on the thirty-firſt, in the evening, they were diſplayed. The populace had crowded ſo cloſe to the building, inſtead of being kept at a proper diſtance, that the operations of ſome of the machines were too potent, and threw down ſhowers of fire on the heads of the populace, who, unable to ſtand it, gave way, and making a precipitate retreat, had the misfortune

misfortune to find two, out of the three ſtreets leading to the ſquare, blocked up; and the other, being a narrow one, was almoſt inſtantly filled by the retiring crowd, and by others, who came into it in their way to the fireworks, not knowing what had happened. The horror of the ſcene was by theſe means compleated; the people, unable to paſs, threw each other down, and thus great numbers periſhed by ſuffocation; and many, who lay undermoſt, ſtabbed thoſe who were upon them, in order to diſengage themſelves. A large ſcaffold likewiſe broke down, and threw a prodigious number of ſpectators into the Seine. Upon the whole, it was computed, that the killed and maimed amounted to three thouſand perſons.

On the 27th of April, 1774, the king, being then at Trianon, was ſeized with ſhivering fits, ſickneſs, and pains in his back. The next day he was removed, by his own deſire, to Verſailles; but it does not appear, that the phyſicians of his court had the leaſt ſuſpicion of the ſmall-pox at the commencement of his illneſs, as his diſorder was treated contrary to all the eſtabliſhed rules of modern practice in ſuch caſes. No wonder, therefore, that nature ſunk under the operations of co-

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pious bleedings and bliſters, which had been adviſed, on the ſuppoſition that the diſeaſe was a putrid fever. The eruption of the ſmall-pox appeared on the 29th in the evening, to the ſurpriſe of the whole court; and, from this moment, very little hopes were entertained of his recovery. Every preparation, therefore, was made for the awful change. The king, ſenſible of his danger, acted the part of a man and a chriſtian; the ſeductreſs of his heart, who had loſt him the eſteem of his ſubjects, was removed from the palace, and the miniſters of religion were called in to be witneſſes of the ſolemn vows of reformation made by the royal penitent, if heaven, in mercy, ſhould ſtill add to the number of his days; but, on the ninth of May, the phyſicians pronounced the fatal ſentence. The laſt rites of the Romiſh church were adminiſtered, in the preſence of the princes of the blood and the great officers of ſtate; and the heralds were ſummoned to approach the chamber of the dying monarch, two to announce his death, which happened on the tenth, and two to proclaim the acceſſion of his ſucceſſor.

Thus died Lewis XV. in the ſixty-fourth year of his age, and in the fifty-ninth

ninth of his reign. It is difficult to draw the character of this prince with preciſion at this period; for the ſecret motives of the moſt important tranſactions of ſovereigns are ſeldom made known till many years after their death; when the ſame inevitable fate having overtaken the miniſters, who acted principal parts with them, on their political theatre, their ſtate-papers are made public, and new lights are thrown on the general hiſtory of the times in which they lived. Some late diſcoveries of this kind, to which credulity and party animoſity have lent the ſeal of authenticity, ſhould make writers extremely cautious how they draw the characters of men, who have made any conſiderable figure in life. With reſpect to Lewis XV. there can be no doubt, that he was a man of good natural abilities, and was of an humane and benevolent diſpoſition. The ſenſibility of a delicate ſoul was often conſpicuous in his private actions; but every principle, as well as the practice of the ſocial virtues, was abſorbed by accuſtoming himſelf to the voice of adulation, and by an unconquerable attachment to debilitating ſenſuality. He was the abſolute maſter of every individual in his extenſive dominions,

nions, except himſelf and his ſtate miſtreſſes, Pompadour and Barré; but, having no power over himſelf, he ſuffered theſe intriguing women to gain an entire aſcendancy over him, and to place and diſplace the great officers of ſtate, the generals of his armies, and even the magiſtracy, at pleaſure. The ſource of theſe evils was a melancholy turn of mind, which encreaſed upon him ſoon after the death of Cardinal Fleury, and at times reduced him ſo low, as to make him conſider life as an inſupportable burthen. To chaſe away this gloom, unhappily, he had recourſe to women and wine; and, for the misfortune of France, the chief paſſion of his miſtreſſes was unbounded ambition.

The reign of Lewis XIV. was the æra of military glory in France, that of Lewis XV. was as remarkable for ſucceſsful negociations. The treaty of Aix-la-chapelle in 1748, and that of Verſailles in 1763; the alliances with the houſe of Auſtria, and the Family Compact, ſhew the policy of France, ſince from thence ſhe indemnified herſelf for the ravages of unſucceſsful wars.

## LEWIS XVI.

During the reign of Lewis XVI. the preſent king of France, ſeveral regulations have taken place, greatly favourable to the general intereſt of the French nation, particularly the ſuppreſſion of the Muſquetaires, and ſome other corps, which being adapted more to the parade of guarding the royal perſon, than any real military ſervice, were ſupported at a great expence, without an adequate return to the benefit of the ſtate.

One of the moſt remarkable circumſtances, however, which has attended the preſent reign, was the placing of Mr. Necker, a proteſtant, and a native of Switzerland, at the head of the French finances in 1776. Under the direction of this gentleman, a general reform took place in France, throughout every department in the revenue, and thereby brought back to the recollection of the nation the memory of the immortal Sully. When hoſtilities commenced between France and Great Britain, in conſequence of the aſſiſtance afforded by the former to the revolted Britiſh colonies in America, the people of France were not burthened with

new taxes for carrying on the war; but the public revenue was augmented by his œconomy, improvements, and reformation, which were introduced into the management of the finances. In conſequence of this national good management, the navy of France has alſo been raiſed to ſo great a height, as to become truly formidable to Great Britain.

At the beginning of the year 1780, in conſequence of the repreſentations of Mr. Necker, a variety of unneceſſary offices, in the houſehold of the king and queen, were aboliſhed, and many other important regulations adopted, for the eaſe of the ſubject, and the general benefit of the kingdom. He changed the exceſs of diſburſements at leaſt one million ſterling, of the year 1776, into an exceſs of revenue, in the year 1780, to the amount of four hundred and forty-five thouſand pounds. But the meaſures of Mr. Neckar were not calculated to procure him friends at court: the vain, the intereſted, and ambitious, naturally became his enemies, and the king appears not to have poſſeſſed ſufficient firmneſs of mind to ſupport an upright and able miniſter. He was therefore diſplaced, and is ſaid to have been particularly oppoſed by the queen's party.

party. His removal, however pernicious to France, is probably a favourable circumſtance for Great Britain, as national œconomy, and wiſe counſels, muſt naturally render the former an enemy to the latter.

The principal occurrences of this reign are ſo much blended with thoſe of Great Britain, that, after what has been ſaid in the Hiſtory of England, it ſeems in ſome degree unneceſſary to repeat them here. We ſhall therefore only obſerve, that it is more than probable, that the French had two motives in wiſhing to ſeparate England from her Colonies: the one, that of deſtroying the reſources of the Engliſh; and the other, that of turning the American commerce into their own channel. In theſe two points, however, the French ſeem in a great meaſure to have been diſappointed: the American commerce, at leaſt at preſent, promiſes no great advantage to France, as Engliſh commodities ſtill are, even in France itſelf, preferred to the manufactures of every other nation on the face of the globe; and, on the other hand, the reſources of England cannot fail, ſo long as the genius and induſtry of her merchants ſhall exiſt, who, failing in one point of commerce, gene-

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rally ſtrike out new branches equally advantageous to themſelves and the nation. The principal object England has to fear from France is the growing power of her marine, which, ſhould it once be permitted to get miſtreſs of the ſeas, the boaſted liberties of Engliſhmen will then indeed be in danger, againſt which all the fortifications they can erect on land will avail them but little.

Lewis XVI. the preſent king of France and Navarre, was born in 1754, ſucceeded his grandfather in 1774, married, in 1770, to Maria Antonietta, ſiſter of the Emperor of Germany, born in 1755. They have iſſue, Lewis Joſeph-Xavier-Francis, dauphin of France, born in 1781, and a princeſs born in 1778, and another born in 1786.

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